

The Mining Journal

RAILWAY AND COMMERCIAL GAZETTE

FORMING A COMPLETE RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF ALL PUBLIC COMPANIES.

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LONDON MINE AGENT, ACCOUNTANT, AND AUDITOR.

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The following are likely to go HIGHER:—Port Phillip, Parys Mountain, Pes-

taena, London and California, Sierra Buttes, Don Pedro.

CLAUSTHAL MINING SCHOOL NOTES—No. XLVIII.*

(Formerly Student at the Royal Bergakademie, Clausthal).

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For the purpose of firing charges in mines magneto-electric machines have been used. According to Prof. Abel, however, when these machines are used the explosive mixture of the cap must be of such a nature as readily to explode, and that the electric spark will with certainty spring between the two ends of the wires when placed at a distance of 1-16th in. apart. According to experiments with a machine by Marcus, of Vienna, in the mines of the Wolfsegg Fraunthaler Company only three shots could with certainty be fired at once. When the number of bore holes was increased there was great liability of one if not more of them missing fire, which from the care with which the experiments were conducted lead to the conclusion either that the machine was not strong enough, or that the varying sensitiveness of mixture in the ignition cap led to the ignition of some of the charges before the others, somewhat confirming the opinion of Prof. Abel.

The greatest objection which has hitherto been made against the mode of firing several charges simultaneously by electricity is that in this case the position of the shots with regard to each other and the working place cannot be placed so advantageously as when each shot is placed successively after the firing of the previous one, and in the most favourable place, which will, of course, depend on the contour of the face after the firing of the previous shots, and the presence of any rents in the rock caused by the first shot. According to experiments in the mines at Ramsbeck the advantage is much more than counterbalanced by the greater effect of the shots when fired simultaneously, and the saving of time. There can, however, be but little doubt that a combination of both methods, on the whole, is the most advantageous—namely, to fire the principal shots in the centre of the working face of a level simultaneously; but the four corner shots, and the others necessary to finish the level to its proper size and shape, might be fired afterwards.

The supposed greater effect of a simultaneous explosion of several is not the only, nor perhaps the greatest, advantage obtained with this method of firing. Suppose, for instance, that a large number of men are engaged in driving forward the face of a drift, or in a shaft or quarry of limited dimensions. As soon as a single shot is fired the whole of the men, from 4 to 30 perhaps in number, must retire to some place of safety until after the shot is fired, when they will most leisurely return to their work, or be lowered again down the shaft. The saving of time by firing the charges simultaneously by electricity is much greater from this cause than is generally supposed.

supposed. In the successful and economical carrying out of blasting operations, the proper position of the holes, with regard to the contour of the face and the nature of the rock, is of the first importance. The first operation in connection with blasting is the laying bare, either by blasting itself or by cutting or other means, of some portion of the surface, so as to weaken the resistance of the rock, or to cause the direction of least resistance to be in a given position, either with the object of obtaining a greater mass of mineral with the least expense in cutting and blasting material, or to cause the mass to break off in any desired direction. In metalliferous mines all this will greatly depend on the structure of the lode, of the sides and materials forming the sides; in stratified deposits on the structure of the seam or seams, the relative direction of the planes of cleavage. In metalliferous mines, and in the sinking of shafts and driving of drifts the first attack on the mass will generally be by blasting. With regard to the details respecting sinking we shall return to them in a later number. The position in which the first shot should be placed will depend greatly on the dip of the strata, and if, as is most usual, the planes of least cohesion coincide with those of stratification. In this case, when driving a drift, and the dip is towards the face, the first hole may be drilled horizontally near to or at the top of the level, and afterwards the lower portion of the mass may be removed by one or two or more holes drilled in a nearly vertical direction. According to the amount of dip or cohesion between the planes of stratification will be the depth to which the holes are drilled. When the dip is but slight the removal of the upper portion of the level can be carried much further forward in advance of the lower part than when the dip is great. When the dip of the strata is from the face of the level the first shot will be most advantageously placed near to or at the floor of the level, and the rest of the holes successively nearer the top. If the strike of the planes of stratification is in the direction of the level (i.e., at right angles to the face) the shots are, perhaps, best placed in lines parallel to the dip, and the removal of the rock will most advantageously proceed from the centre towards both sides.

most advantageously proceed from the centre towards both sides.

In the case of coal seams, or stratified deposits, where the strata are so mild as to permit of the laying bare of one face of mineral by the use of the pick, this is generally effected in the direction of the plane of stratification. In exceptional cases, as in the Königs Mine (coal) in Upper Silesia, it may be found advantageous, even in stratified mines, to effect this work with blasting. In most cases, however, it is best to effect this by the aid of the pick.

however, it is but to effect this by the aid of the pick. In coal mines the object is generally to lay bare, besides the face, either the top or bottom side, and the two ends of a long parallel-opiped, which has thus four out of the six surfaces free and undetached. The position of the side which is made bare depends on the structure of the seam. If the seam rests upon a thin tender bed of shale, or other layer which is readily cut by the pick, this is, perhaps, the most advantageous position for readily winning the mass. Such a seam of dirt is, perhaps, of most importance in beds under 1 yard in thickness. At other times the dirt parting may be in the middle of the seam, which unless the seam be very thin is also of great advantage to the miner; indeed, at first sight it might appear the most advantageous position of the two, since the work of cutting could be performed in a standing posture, whilst in the former case this must be done in a lying posture. As far as the posture is concerned, however, it appears to be almost immaterial, since a miner who has been accustomed to cutting whilst lying on his side will prefer this to standing, if he has not been accustomed to it. When the cutting is made on the floor, as a rule the coal can be wedged down better than up, favouring a greater production of large coal than is obtained when blasting is resorted to the seam of coal being generally attached more tenaciously to the floor than to the roof. When the seam of parting lies next to the roof this position is the most disadvantageous of all, or it may be even more economical to effect the cutting in the coal itself near the floor, although in this case a very sensible loss of coal is occasioned. In all cases nearly the upper or lower face, as may be, is first laid bare by cutting, and afterwards the two ends, so that the latter may support the coal until the miner has finished. It is usual in most cases, and in this country compulsory, to insert small blocks or cylinders of wood every 6 ft. or so in the holing, to prevent the unexpected fall of the coal whilst the miner is cutting. In addition to these it may be occasionally necessary, owing to the cleavage of the coal, or to cracks produced in it by the weight of the roof, or other causes, to strut the face of the coal by inclined props, to prevent its rolling over, the short vertical props inserted in the undercut. When the holing is made in the middle of the seam sometimes the upper portion of the seam to the depth of the undercut is got first, and in other cases the lower is got the first. In this latter case longer props must be inserted between the floor and the under side of the upper coal to prevent its falling unexpectedly on the men whilst breaking and filling up the lower portion of the bed. These props will be best inserted slightly inclined at the upper end of the face towards the coal

* Being Notes on a Course of Lectures on Mining, delivered by Herr Bergrath, Dr. VOX GRÖDDECK, Director of the Royal Bergakademie, Clausthal, The Harz, North Germany.

It is often immaterial which is got first, the lower or upper portion of a bed, depending on the momentary convenience or otherwise it gives to the miner (who may one day get the lower part first and the next day the upper part first), on the different qualities of the two portions of the bed, &c. When the roof is bad, and the upper coal pretty strong, it may be best to get the lower portion first; the props can then be kept nearer the face of the coal, the roof does not fall so close to the face, and the lower bed can be got without much trouble on account of dirt falling amongst it. In the district of Liege small portions of the bearing dirt are left to support the coal, in the place of the short props and sprags most usual.

Besides supporting the coal as and whilst it is being undercut it will also be necessary in most cases to support the roof for a short distance behind the face, to keep a road open for the corf, &c., and to prevent the roof falling close to the face, since then only the breadth of the undercut would be available to the miner, and the difficulty of getting the coal greatly increased. On this account one or two rows of props, as the case may require, are carried parallel to the face, and the corf road carried between them, or between the face of the coal and the row nearest the face. Between the roof and the top of the prop a flat piece of wood, technically termed a lid, is inserted, and the prop driven tight into a vertical position with the sledge hammer. If the roof is bad straggling props may require setting in a position most suitable to support any loose part of the roof. To the neglect of proper precautions in setting the props and sprags is to be attributed at least 50 per cent. of the fatal accidents occurring in mines.

We have already in an early number referred to the planes of cleavage in coal, and that advantage is usually taken of this peculiarity of a coal seam to have the back side of the parallelopiped of coal (which has been cut free on four surfaces) to coincide in direction with these planes of cleavage, or least cohesion. The winning of coal in this manner, "on board" as it is technically termed, is, sometimes disadvantageous, and especially with a bad roof may lead to the crushing of the coal so much that little besides small coal is obtained.

In metalliferous mines, according to the manner of working, as we shall later see, the mineral is generally laid bare on two faces, or two faces and one end, the hardness of the mass preventing any economical result from attempting to cut the ends or sides, which is effected by blasting. After a portion of the mineral has thus been laid bare, the hole to contain the charge of powder is drilled in the most suitable direction for loosening the mass. In metalliferous mines, or where the rock is comparatively hard, the surface where it is intended to commence drilling the hole is dressed so as to enable the drill to take hold at once and chip the rock without slipping. In coal mines the commencement may be made with the points of the pick. After this the boring commences, Where a hammer is used the blows on the head of the drill are struck lightly until the hole has become so deep as to serve as a sort of a guide for the drill, which is then struck more quickly and heavily, at the same time the drill is slowly rotated between each blow. From 10 to 20 blows should be struck during a single rotation of the drill, otherwise there is a great liability of the formation of corners and projections, which should be immediately effaced by repeating the blow in any position where they are felt, since, if they are allowed to become large, there is great difficulty in their removal. In coal mines the borer itself is generally sufficiently heavy, and the coal is, comparatively speaking, so mild that the boring is most quickly and conveniently effected by hand alone, without the use of a hammer.

When the bore hole in rock is drilled in a downward direction it is usual to fill the bore hole with water, by means of which the dust and powder formed is suspended in the water, and with it spirted out of the hole, so that the chisel strikes the face of the rock instead of falling on a bed of rock dust, giving greater effect. When water is not used, as in coal mines, the fine powder must be scraped out, which occupies time, and the boring is effected less rapidly. When the bore hole is driven upwards in an inclined direction the powder will fall out of itself, and the end of the drill will always act on the clean end of the bore hole. This is, perhaps, one reason of the greater effect obtained by the Italians, who, as we before mentioned, are accustomed to the use of heavy hammers, which they use not by striking downwards, but by swinging from below upwards. The bore holes being thus drilled upwards the powder falls out of itself, the end of the drill always acts on the clean surface of the rock, the time lost in scraping is saved, so that, in spite of the less price at which they take the work, they can, nevertheless, earn more per shift than by the ordinary system of boring. The depth to which the bore hole is carried will depend on the size of the mass to be loosened, the amount of powder to be used, the existence of clefts, &c., in the rock, advantage of which should be always taken; a bore hole, however, which terminates in or near a crack is very unfavourably placed, since the gases developed on explosion may find vent by these instead of loosening the mass.

The amount of powder used is generally fixed by guess-work on the part of the miner, or, at most, in proportion to the depth of the hole, and with some reference to the position of the mass to be loosened with respect to the surrounding rock. The most rational manner is according to a principle enunciated by General Sir J. Burgoyne—to proportion the amount of powder directly to the cubes of the length of the lines of least resistance, the line of least resistance being that in the direction in which the least resistance is offered to the vent of the powder in the air, and for ordinary rock, according to data given, half the cube of the line of least resistance measured in feet expresses the number of ounces of powder suitable for the charge. Thus, for instance, suppose the line of least resistance to measure 4 ft., then the cube of 4 being 64, half of this is 32, so that, according to the above rule, a charge in ordinary rock with a line of least resistance 4 ft. long is 32 ozs., or 2 lbs. of powder, which agrees pretty nearly with ordinary practice. Except where the extra time and labour involved exceed the cost of the extra powder used, the bore hole should not be drilled in the direction of the line of least resistance, for in that case there will be sure to be a waste of powder—part of the powder will be blown out, and the mass will find a partial vent along the bore hole.

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One of the best criterions as to whether the proper quantity of powder has been used is the nature of the report when the shot is fired, and the effect of the shot on the mass loosened. When the report is loud and violent it is a pretty sure indication that there has been an excess of powder used, since part of the force spent will have been employed in making the noise; if the mass is greatly shattered, or in coal mines if there is much small coal produced, it is also evident that an excess of powder has been used. On the contrary, when the report is dull without being loud, and the mass has been simply detached and left *in situ* without being shattered, it is a pretty sure evidence that the proper amount of powder has been pretty nearly approximated to. In some cases, as in quarrying limestone, it may be advantageous to use an excess of powder, so as to break the mass into small pieces ready for filling, but in coal mines too much attention cannot well be paid to the proper proportioning of the amount of powder, as a greater amount of small coal is produced thereby where there is no need. On this account in many continental coal and other mines the fixing of the proper amount of powder, as well as the depth and position of the bore hole, is left to the deputy, or a person specially employed for the purpose. Where powder is required to be taken into the mine in cartridges this cannot be adjusted so well as when the powder is poured in loose; this disadvantage, however, can be practically got over by using cartridges of different sizes.

MECHANICAL STOKERS.—In order to afford a uniform intermittent supply of fuel to the stoker or to the furnace from the feed hopper, Mr. CHARLES SMITH, of Burnley, proposes to employ a hopper, the bottom or lower part of which is in communication with a cylinder, one side of which is provided with an opening for the exit of fuel. Within the cylinder is a roller caused to rotate slowly by gear-wheels or other driving apparatus. The periphery of the roller is (at intervals apart) recessed, forming receptacles within which coal (as the receptacle comes under the hopper) is received. The continued rotation brings the receptacle over the exit

opening (through the cylinder) to the furnace or to the hopper passes under the hopper on reaching the exit opening is to be supplied to the furnace or stoker, or on stokers, for the latter the opening is to be supplied directly under the exit opening down the incline to the right to the left hand. It will be entirely enclosed within the hopper if partly enclosed or embosomed by the hopper.

The application of nickel years has caused increasing interest in obtaining it, even when the cost is beyond our present knowledge, constantly being made in the most difficult manner in such a manner as to metallurgist to attach importance to the fact being inclined to pass by until the late Mr. J. H. D.C.L., of King's College, Cambridge, has been the authority on Nova Scotia. The Mineralogical Society of London has published valuable notes on North America, containing nickel, an abstract of the *Mining Journal*, that pyrrhotite or magnetite contains nickel, generally amounting together from 1 to 2 per cent. of the most of the nickel of common occurrence. In the examination of varieties of pyrrhotite from New Brunswick, and in the examination of the pyrrhotite, which has been displayed, which ranges from 1 to 2 per cent. of the very feeble attraction by the mineral—the most common variety of nickel, the largest percentage of nickel in the pyrrhotite of Breton Island, N.S., were found to be 1 to 2 per cent. so strongly so. The pyrrhotite structure, associated with the pyrrhotite of the whole gave $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of nickel, more than $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of nickel in the operation. A specimen of pyrrhotite which attracts both ends of a magnet, with a little cobalt. At pyrrhotite occurs in conglomerate, and attracts both ends of a magnet, analysis from 0.09 to 0.8 per cent. of nickel.

Analyses of some specimens, also gave some idea as to how a mineral containing cobalt over a considerable area is coarsely granular, showing silicious rock, containing times $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick throughout it is so feeble that it is finely powdered mineral quantity is retained; the characters, and in qualitative statement as to the active analysis is desirable; 33.91; iron, 53.75; nickel, 1.63, which show conclusively respective compositions including nickel (up to iron, 41.9; nickel, 22.1 = cobalt. It is remarked to give but 0.36 percent, of iron from Lowell approaches

The mispickel from M₁ associated with gold, which has before been shown to be from a specimen now tested, the next specimen of mispickel from a gold district some 50 miles distant, gave in qualitative tests showed small amounts of silver. The mispickel crystals of brilliant lustrous habit at Newport, N.S., Prof. J. H. Oeding, and the halotrichite mineral from Nova Scotia mineral collection, and that he failed to find in the mineral had been formed from about 50 grains of the same mineral about 2 ft. from the outcrop of the presence of both minerals looked quite free of any associated

Some interesting particularities of the ore were to be millerite; it was in plates, associated with small quantities, probably giving the blow-pipe reaction at the same place "in radiated crusts, such as" to a gentleman who saw them were like what Prof. How's mineral named. From the same form but a small part of the kupfernicker occurring in the mine the last few years. How's possession, consisting of dolomite. About 113 tons in the following year, but what was that? That the minerals of Novaya Zemlya worthy the attention of K. asserted in the *Mining Journal* but such facts as those given as additional evidence that should be no longer neglected.

DIRECT-ACTING FORCE—Texarkana, Arkansas, have done to an improved direct-acting durable construction, than for other purposes, as no valve is out of order by sand and acting plungers that force supply holes through both swinging or sliding cut-off communication with the provided with cylinders operated by plunger rods a cylinder through supply direct action of the plunger part and into a connecting communicates. A swinging connecting chamber at the alternating action of the to rest on seats of chamber of the cylinders with the gers, and forces at each str into the discharge pipe.

Lectures on Practical Mining in Germany.

CLAUSTHAL MINING SCHOOL NOTES—No. XLVIII.*

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SECTION III.

For the purpose of firing charges in mines magneto-electric machines have been used. According to Prof. Abel, however, when these machines are used the explosive mixture of the cap must be of such a nature as readily to explode, and that the electric spark will with certainty spring between the two ends of the wires when placed at a distance of 1-16th in. apart. According to experiments with a machine by Marcus, of Vienna, in the mines of the Wolfsegg Fraunthaler Company only three shots could with certainty be fired at once. When the number of bore holes was increased there was great liability of one if not more of them missing fire, which from the care with which the experiments were conducted lead to the conclusion either that the machine was not strong enough, or that the varying sensitiveness of mixture in the ignition cap led to the ignition of some of the charges before the others, somewhat confirming the opinion of Prof. Abel.

The greatest objection which has hitherto been made against the mode of firing several charges simultaneously by electricity is that in this case the position of the shots with regard to each other and the working place cannot be placed so advantageously as when each shot is placed successively after the firing of the previous one, and in the most favourable place, which will, of course, depend on the contour of the face after the firing of the previous shots, and the presence of any rents in the rock caused by the first shot. According to experiments in the mines at Ramsbeck the advantage is much more than counterbalanced by the greater effect of the shots when fired simultaneously, and the saving of time. There can, however, be but little doubt that a combination of both methods, on the whole, is the most advantageous—namely, to fire the principal shots in the centre of the working face of a level simultaneously; but the four corner shots, and the others necessary to finish the level to its proper size and shape, might be fired afterwards.

The supposed greater effect of a simultaneous explosion of several is not the only, nor perhaps the greatest, advantage obtained with this method of firing. Suppose, for instance, that a large number of men are engaged in driving forward the face of a drift, or in a shaft or quarry of limited dimensions. As soon as a single shot is fired the whole of the men, from 4 to 30 perhaps in number, must retire to some place of safety until after the shot is fired, when they will most leisurely return to their work, or be lowered again down the shaft. The saving of time by firing the charges simultaneously by electricity is much greater from this cause than is generally supposed.

In the successful and economical carrying out of blasting operations, the proper position of the holes, with regard to the contour of the face and the nature of the rock, is of the first importance. The first operation in connection with blasting is the laying bare, either by blasting itself or by cutting or other means, of some portion of the surface, so as to weaken the resistance of the rock, or to cause the direction of least resistance to be in a given position, either with the object of obtaining a greater mass of mineral with the least expense in cutting and blasting material, or to cause the mass to break off in any desired direction. In metalliferous mines all this will greatly depend on the structure of the lode, of the sides and materials forming the sides; in stratified deposits on the structure of the seam or seams, the relative direction of the planes of cleavage. In metalliferous mines, and in the sinking of shafts and driving of drifts the first attack on the mass will generally be by blasting. With regard to the details respecting sinking we shall return to them in a later number. The position in which the first shot should be placed will depend greatly on the dip of the strata, and if, as is most usual, the planes of least cohesion coincide with those of stratification. In this case, when driving a drift, and the dip is towards the face, the first hole may be drilled horizontally near to or at the top of the level, and afterwards the lower portion of the mass may be removed by one or two or more holes drilled in a nearly vertical direction. According to the amount of dip or cohesion between the planes of stratification will be the depth to which the holes are drilled. When the dip is but slight the removal of the upper portion of the level can be carried much further forward in advance of the lower part than when the dip is great. When the dip of the strata is from the face of the level the first shot will be most advantageously placed near to or at the floor of the level, and the rest of the holes successively nearer the top. If the strike of the planes of stratification is in the direction of the level (i.e., at right angles to the face) the shots are, perhaps, best placed in lines parallel to the dip, and the removal of the rock will most advantageously proceed from the centre towards both sides.

In the case of coal seams, or stratified deposits, where the strata are so mild as to permit of the laying bare of one face of mineral by the use of the pick, this is generally effected in the direction of the plane of stratification. In exceptional cases, as in the Königs Mine (coal) in Upper Silesia, it may be found advantageous, even in stratified mines, to effect this with blasting. In most cases, however, it is best to effect this by the aid of the pick.

In coal mines the object is generally to lay bare, besides the face, either the top or bottom side, and the two ends of a long parallel-opiped, which has thus four out of the six surfaces free and undisturbed. The position of the side which is made bare depends on the structure of the seam. If the seam rests upon a thin tender bed of shale, or other layer which is readily cut by the pick, this is, perhaps, the most advantageous position for readily winning the mass. Such a seam of dirt is, perhaps, of most importance in beds under 1 yard in thickness. At other times the dirt parting may be in the middle of the seam, which unless the seam be very thin is also of great advantage to the miner; indeed, at first sight it might appear the most advantageous position of the two, since the work of cutting could be performed in a standing posture, whilst in the former case this must be done in a lying posture. As far as the posture is concerned, however, it appears to be almost immaterial, since a miner who has been accustomed to cutting whilst lying on his side will prefer this to standing, if he has not been accustomed to it. When the cutting is made on the floor, as a rule the coal can be wedged down better than up, favouring a greater production of large coal than is obtained when blasting is resorted to the seam of coal being generally attached more tenaciously to the floor than the roof. When the seam of parting lies next to the roof this position is the most disadvantageous of all, or it may be even more economical to effect the cutting in the coal itself near the floor, although in this case a very sensible loss of coal is occasioned. In all cases nearly the upper or lower face, as may be, is first laid bare by cutting, and afterwards the two ends, so that the latter may support the coal until the miner has finished. It is usual in most cases, and in this country compulsory, to insert small blocks or cylinders of wood every 6 ft. or so in the holing, to prevent the unexpected fall of the coal whilst the miner is cutting. In addition to these it may be occasionally necessary, owing to the cleavage of the coal, or to cracks produced in it by the weight of the roof, or other causes, to strut the face of the coal by inclined props, to prevent its rolling over, the short vertical props inserted in the undercut. When the holing is made in the middle of the seam sometimes the upper portion of the seam to the depth of the undercut is got first, and in other cases the lower is got first. In this latter case longer props must be inserted between the floor and the under side of the upper coal to prevent its falling unexpectedly on the men whilst breaking and filling up the lower portion of the bed. These props will be best inserted slightly inclined at the upper end of the face towards the coal.

It is often immaterial which is got first, the lower or upper portion of a bed, depending on the momentary convenience or otherwise it gives to the miner (who may one day get the lower part first and the next day the upper part first), on the different qualities of the two portions of the bed, &c. When the roof is bad, and the upper coal pretty strong, it may be best to get the lower portion first; the props can then be kept nearer the face of the coal, the roof does not fall so close to the face, and the lower bed can be got without much trouble on account of dirt falling amongst it. In the district of Liege small portions of the bearing dirt are left to support the coal, in the place of the short props and sprags most usual.

Besides supporting the coal as and whilst it is being undercut it will also be necessary in most cases to support the roof for a short distance behind the face, to keep a road open for the corf, &c., and to prevent the roof falling close to the face, since then only the breadth of the undercut would be available to the miner, and the difficulty of getting the coal greatly increased. On this account one or two rows of props, as the case may require, are carried parallel to the face, and the corf road carried between them, or between the face of the coal and the row nearest the face. Between the roof and the top of the prop a flat piece of wood, technically termed a lid, is inserted, and the prop driven tight into a vertical position with the sledge hammer. If the roof is bad straggling props may require setting in a position most suitable to support any loose part of the roof. To the neglect of proper precautions in setting the props and sprags is to be attributed at least 50 per cent. of the fatal accidents occurring in mines.

We have already in an early number referred to the planes of cleavage in coal, and that advantage is usually taken of this peculiarity of a coal seam to have the back side of the parallel-opiped of coal (which has been cut free on four surfaces) to coincide in direction with these planes of cleavage, or least cohesion. The winning of coal in this manner, "on board" as it is technically termed, is sometimes disadvantageous, and especially with a bad roof may lead to the crushing of the coal so much that little besides small coal is obtained.

In metalliferous mines, according to the manner of working, as we shall later see, the mineral is generally laid bare on two faces, or two faces and one end, the hardness of the mass preventing any economical result from attempting to cut the ends or sides, which is effected by blasting. After a portion of the mineral has thus been laid bare, the hole to contain the charge of powder is drilled in the most suitable direction for loosening the mass. In metalliferous mines, or where the rock is comparatively hard, the surface where it is intended to commence drilling the hole is dressed so as to enable the drill to take hold at once and chip the rock without slipping. In coal mines the commencement may be made with the points of the pick. After this the boring commences. Where a hammer is used the blows on the head of the drill are struck lightly until the hole has become so deep as to serve as a sort of a guide for the drill, which is then struck more quickly and heavily, at the same time the drill is slowly rotated between each blow. From 10 to 20 blows should be struck during a single rotation of the drill, otherwise there is a great liability of the formation of corners and projections, which should be immediately effaced by repeating the blow in any position where they are felt, since, if they are allowed to become large, there is great difficulty in their removal. In coal mines the borer itself is generally sufficiently heavy, and the coal is, comparatively speaking, so mild that the boring is most quickly and conveniently effected by hand alone, without the use of a hammer.

When the bore hole in rock is drilled in a downward direction it is usual to fill the bore hole with water, by means of which the dust and powder formed is suspended in the water, and with it spirted out of the hole, so that the chisel strikes the face of the rock instead of falling on a bed of rock dust, giving greater effect. When water is not used, as in coal mines, the fine powder must be scraped out, which occupies time, and the boring is effected less rapidly. When the bore hole is driven upwards in an inclined direction the powder will fall out of itself, and the end of the drill will always act on the clean end of the bore hole. This is, perhaps, one reason of the greater effect obtained by the Italians, who, as we before mentioned, are accustomed to the use of heavy hammers, which they use not by striking downwards, but by swinging from below upwards. The bore holes being thus drilled upwards the powder falls out of itself, the end of the drill always acts on the clean surface of the rock, the time lost in scraping is saved, so that, in spite of the less price at which they take the work, they can, nevertheless, earn more per shift than by the ordinary system of boring. The depth to which the bore hole is carried will depend on the size of the mass to be loosened, the amount of powder to be used, the existence of clefts, &c., in the rock, advantage of which should always be taken; a bore hole, however, which terminates in or near a crack is very unfavourably placed, since the gases developed on explosion may find vent by these instead of loosening the mass.

The amount of powder used is generally fixed by guess-work on the part of the miner, or, at most, in proportion to the depth of the hole, and with some reference to the position of the mass to be loosened with respect to the surrounding rock. The most rational manner is according to a principle enunciated by General Sir J. Burgoyne—to proportion the amount of powder directly to the cubes of the length of the lines of least resistance, the line of least resistance being that in the direction in which the least resistance is offered to the vent of the powder in the air, and for ordinary rock, according to data given, half the cube of the line of least resistance measured in feet expresses the number of ounces of powder suitable for the charge. Thus, for instance, suppose the line of least resistance to measure 4 ft., then the cube of 4 being 64, half of this is 32, so that, according to the above rule, a charge in ordinary rock with a line of least resistance 4 ft. long is 32 ozs., or 2 lbs. of powder, which agrees pretty nearly with ordinary practice. Except where the extra time and labour involved exceed the cost of the extra powder used, the bore hole should not be drilled in the direction of the line of least resistance, for in that case there will be sure to be a waste of powder—part of the powder will be blown out, and the gases will find a partial vent along the bore hole.

One of the best criterions as to whether the proper quantity of powder has been used is the nature of the report when the shot is fired, and the effect of the shot on the mass loosened. When the report is loud and violent it is a pretty sure indication that there has been an excess of powder used, since part of the force spent will have been employed in making the noise; if the mass is greatly shattered, or in coal mines if there is much small coal produced, it is also evident that an excess of powder has been used. On the contrary, when the report is dull without being loud, and the mass has been simply detached and left *in situ* without being shattered, it is a pretty sure evidence that the proper amount of powder has been pretty nearly approximated to. In some cases, as in quarrying limestone, it may be advantageous to use an excess of powder, so as to break the mass into small pieces ready for filling, but in coal mines too much attention cannot well be paid to the proper proportioning of the amount of powder, as a greater amount of small coal is produced thereby where there is no need. On this account in many continental coal and other mines the fixing of the proper amount of powder, as well as the depth and position of the bore hole, is left to the deputy, or a person specially employed for the purpose. Where powder is required to be taken into the mine in cartridges this cannot be adjusted so well as when the powder is poured in loose; this disadvantage, however, can be practically got over by using cartridges of different sizes.

MECHANICAL STOKERS.—In order to afford a uniform intermittent supply of fuel to the stoker or to the furnace from the feed hopper, Mr. CHARLES SMITH, of Burnley, proposes to employ a hopper, the bottom or lower part of which is in communication with a cylinder, one side of which is provided with an opening for the exit of fuel. Within the cylinder is a roller caused to rotate slowly by gear-wheels or other driving apparatus. The periphery of the roller is (at intervals apart) recessed, forming receptacles within which coal (as the receptacle comes under the hopper) is received. The continued rotation brings the receptacle over the exit

opening (through the cylinder) by way of which the fuel passes to the furnace or to the mechanical stoker, and so on each revolution of the roller the receptacle becomes filled with fuel, and on reaching the exit opening. When the fuel boiler or double furnace is to be supplied there may be one of such apparatus to each stoker, for the latter there will be a double incline placed immediately under the exit opening, so that the fuel may pass one to the left hand, the other part down the roller, instead of being entirely enclosed within a cylinder, would answer the same purpose if partly enclosed or embraced by a concave neck or concave bottom of the hopper.

NICKELIFEROUS MINERALS OF NOVA SCOTIA.

The application of nickel to many new uses during the past years has caused increased interest to be taken in all minerals containing it, even when the percentage is insufficient to make it, on our present knowledge, commercially valuable, for the progress of metallurgy is to attach importance to researches which some would be inclined to pass by unheeded. From the time when he published his admirable "Mineralogy of Nova Scotia," Prof. HENRY HOW, D.C.L., of King's College, Windsor, has been recognised as the leading authority on Nova Scotian mineralogy, and he has now supplied the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland some valuable notes on North American pyrrhotites and other minerals containing nickel, an abstract of which will be acceptable to the readers of the *Mining Journal*. He remarks that it is a well-known fact that pyrrhotite or magnetic iron pyrites frequently, if not invariably, contains nickel, generally with cobalt, in various proportions amounting together from traces up to nearly 6 per cent., and the examination of varieties of pyrrhotite occurring in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and in the United States, he found that they exhibited remarkable differences in the intensity of the magnetic display, which ranges from distinct polarity in the mass down to a very feeble attraction by a magnet in the finely-powdered state of the mineral—the most feebly magnetic specimens containing the largest percentage of nickel. Four pieces of pyrrhotite from Breton Island, N.S., were all polar in action on the magnetic needle, one strongly so. The mineral was massive, but with some lamellar structure, associated with quartz, and an average analysis of the whole gave 2 per cent. of oxides of nickel and cobalt, or more than 1 per cent. of metallic nickel, there being a trifling amount in the operation. A specimen from Nictaux, Annapolis County, which attracts both ends of the needle, gave 0.10 per cent. of nickel with a little cobalt. At Lstete, New Brunswick, it appears that pyrrhotite occurs in considerable quantities; it is massive, granular, and attracts both ends of the needle, and yielded analysis from 0.09 to 0.80 per cent. of nickel, with a considerable portion of cobalt.

Analyses of some specimens of pyrrhotite from Lowell, Massachusetts, also gave some interesting results. It was handed to Prof. How as a mineral containing 25 to 30 per cent. of nickel; it is found over a considerable area, and is, it is said, being worked. The mineral is coarsely granular, showing no crystals; it occurs with a silicious rock, containing a little mica, which runs in veins sometimes 1 in. thick through the ore in hand specimens. The magnetism is so feeble that it is only perceived by actual contact of finely-powdered mineral with a magnet, when an exceedingly small quantity is retained; this property, and the similarity in some characters, and in qualitative composition to Pentlandite, together with the statement as to the amount of nickel present, make a quantitative analysis desirable; and a pure looking piece gave—sulphur, 33.91; iron, 53.75; nickel, 2.41; gangue, 8.30; magnesia and lime, 1.63, which show conclusively the individuality of the mineral, respective compositions being—pyrrhotite: sulphur, 40; iron, 53.9; nickel, 1.9; pentlandite: sulphur, 34.9; iron, 54.9; nickel, 2.21=100. Here the nickel gave no indication of cobalt. It is remarked that the polar mineral from Cape Breton gave but 0.35 per cent. of nickel, whilst the scarcely magnetic specimen from Lowell approaches ten times that amount.

The mispickel from Montague, Halifax County, N.S., frequently associated with gold, which it sometimes holds in visible quantities has before been shown to contain cobalt, and Prof. How obtained from a specimen now tested, 0.09 per cent. of metallic cobalt. Next specimen of mispickel from Lunenburg County, N.S., was a gold district some 50 miles south-west of the preceding. Qualitative tests showed small quantities of both nickel and cobalt. Mentions that mispickel occurs here in exceedingly well-defined crystals of brilliant lustre. Referring to the matrix of pickeringite at Newport, N.S., Prof. How remarks that when, in 1863, he published the analysis of pickeringite, which resulted in the establishment of a new group of salts and minerals (the pseudo aluminates), and the halotrichite group of Dana, he showed that Nova Scotia mineral contained some 2000ths of nickel and cobalt, and that he failed to find these metals in the rock from which the mineral had been formed. He has since found that by treatment about 50 grains of the slate, taken by himself from the interior about 2 ft. from the outer edge, with aqua regia, distinct evidence of the presence of both metals was obtained from the rock, which looked quite free of any sulphides or other minerals of metalliferous nature.

Some interesting particulars are also given with regard to a specimen of nickel ore from Tilt Cove, Newfoundland, and which proved to be millerite; it was of pure yellow colour, in six-sided crystals and plates, associated with pearl spar and quartz, and a green mica in small quantity, probably zarite; it appeared to be very pure, giving the blow-pipe reactions of sulphur and nickel only; it was found at the same place "in leaves like the purest gold," and in radiated crusts, such as occur at Gap Mine, Pennsylvania, according to a gentleman who said specimens he had seen from Tilt Cove were like what Prof. How showed him from the United States locality named. From the same authority he learned that this specimen formed but a small part of the nickel ore at Tilt Cove, which is chiefly kupfernickel occurring in pockets with the copper pyrites so lately mined the last few years. Specimens of this kupfernickel, in Prof. How's possession, consist almost entirely of the massive mineral with dolomite. About 113 tons of the ore were shipped in 1869 and following year, but what has been done since he does not know. That the minerals of Nova Scotia and the adjoining provinces worthy the attention of British capitalists has been so frequently asserted in the *Mining Journal* that it is unnecessary to repeat such facts as those given even in this short paper may be taken as additional evidence that the development of the mineral resources should be no longer neglected.

DIRECT-ACTING FORCE PUMP.—Messrs. Van Pelt and Lee, Texarkana, Arkansas, have patented an invention which has reference to an improved direct-acting force pump of extremely simple and durable construction, that is adapted particularly to mining and other purposes, as no valves are used and no parts are liable to get out of order by sand and grit. The invention consists of direct-acting plungers that force the water from the cylinders, having supply holes through bottom channels to a discharge pipe having swinging or sliding cut-off that alternately establishes and interrupts communication with the cylinder and channels. The top part is provided with cylinders and plungers, sliding therein, and being operated by plunger rods and a fulcrum lever. The water enters the cylinder through supply holes at both sides, and is forced by the direct action of the plungers down into the water channels of the pump and into a connecting chamber, with which the discharge pipe communicates. A swinging and balanced cut-off is arranged in the connecting chamber at the foot of discharge pipe, and carried by an alternating action of the plungers from one side to the other, so that the water is forced into the discharge pipe at the descent of the plungers, and forces at each stroke the water through one of the channels into the discharge pipe. The pump works in simple and effective manner, and if it be

* Being Notes on a Course of Lectures on Mining, delivered by Herr Berggrath, Dr. von GROSSECK, Director of the Royal Bergakademie, Clausthal, The Harz, North Germany.

Oct. 27. 1877.]

West Mostyn Coal & Iron Company

(LIMITED).

CAPITAL PAID UP { £56,500 Preferred Shares } TOTAL, £87,560.

Issue of 2000 First Mortgage Debentures, of £20 each, bearing Ten per Cent. Interest, payable Half-yearly, free of Income Tax.

£10s per Bond on application; £2 10s. three months after allotment; and the remainder in equal payments of £2 10s. the end of every succeeding three months, thereby extending the payments over two years.

The Bonds will be redeemable by Public Drawings at periods dated below, viz.:-

£5000 1st June, 1886	£5000 1st June, 1888	£5000 1st June, 1890	£5000 1st June, 1892
5000 " 1887	5000 " 1889	5000 " 1891	5000 " 1893

Or the proportion thereof as may be subscribed.

DIRECTORS.

J. DAVENPORT SHAKESPEAR, Esq., F.G.S., A.I.C.E.

HENRY WHITE, Esq.

PETER RYLANDS, Esq., M.P.

JOHN OLIVER SURTEES, Esq.

SOLICITORS—Messrs. BAXTERS AND CO., 6, Victoria street, Westminster.

BANKERS.

Messrs. BROWN, JANSON, AND CO., Abchurch Lane, London. | NORTH AND SOUTH WALES BANK, Holywell.

SECRETARY—JOHN DAVIES, Esq.

OFFICES,—6, GREAT ST. HELEN'S, LONDON, E.C.

This company was established in 1874 for the purpose of developing the Talacre coalfield, situated at the Point of Ayr, Flintshire, and about 2 miles north-west of Holywell.

The property extends over 2211 acres, and is held for a lease of 60 years at a rent of £1000 per annum, which merges into the exceptionally low royalty of 1-15th. The coal is of the best quality, and has been found to be of the same quality as the coal of the North Wales Railway.

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Mr. John Higson, the company's engineer, reports that this additional capital will be sufficient to complete all the works, and ensure an output of 1000 tons per day.

A profit of 1s. 6d. per ton upon this quantity will pay the 10 per cent. interest upon the debentures, leaving a balance sufficient to pay 16 per cent. dividend upon both preferred and deferred shares.

The large outlay already incurred in proving and developing this valuable property is a substantial security to the debenture holders, and the directors have the greatest confidence in recommending the debentures as a sound and legitimate investment.

The debentures are payable over two years, but applicants desiring to pay up at once in full may do so with the consent of the board.

The shareholders have already subscribed for a large number of the debentures.

Forms of Application may be had of the bankers, the solicitors, the secretary, of Mr. H. RUSSELL EVANS, Dock-street, Newport, Mon., M. F. FRANCIS, Corn Exchange Chambers, Chester, and Mr. L. COOPER, 56, Windmill-street, Manchester.

dear Sir Charles, your's very truly, Rod. I. Murchison." This letter having reached Sir Charles Hotham during his last illness, its effect to Mr. Phillips was lost, but it leaves no doubt as to Sir Roderick's opinion in the matter, and is certainly a very important piece of evidence in favour of Mr. Phillips's claims. It is now remarked that although Mr. Phillips has some employment, it is of so limited a character that his usefulness is comparatively lost to the country, and it is suggested that it would be for the interests of Australia if the Minister for Mines of New South Wales were to avail himself of his abilities, and give him an extensive commission, such as that which was once given to Mr. Hargrave, as it might be of incalculable benefit to this colony, as the development of its mineral wealth may be regarded as only in its infancy.

With regard to the auriferous property referred to, Mr. Phillips has sent ample details for the information of those disposed to take an interest in the matter; but it would be difficult to explain its position with regard to the leads without reference to the diagrams, which, however, can be seen at the Mining Journal office, together with the sketch of first gold washing apparatus used in Australia, and which Mr. Phillips designed and erected in 1848, or just 29 years ago.

MINING EXPLORATIONS IN INDIA.

Mr. WALTER NESS, mining engineer, who is engaged by the Government at the Warora coal field, Central India, delivered an address, in the Geological Museum at Dudley, to the members of the South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire Institute of Mining Engineers. The chair was occupied by Mr. HENRY JOHNSON, and there were a large number of members present. Mr. JOHNSON alluded with pride to the fact that Mr. Ness, who had been so successful in India, was a member of their Institute before he left England.—Mr. NESS graphically described his outward journey, giving descriptions of Southampton, Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Port Said, the Suez Canal, town of Suez, Aden, Bombay, and on to Warora. Mr. Ness said he found the work of exploration proceeding, and described with humour the difficulties he had to teach the natives to use the colliers' pick; they had no idea of it, and preferred using a long iron bar to do the boring—a most wasteful manner of using manual labour. He also had considerable difficulty in teaching natives how to wind an engine; the empty skips with which he practised them were pulled over the pulley scores of times. The moment a native found anything wrong he abandoned all hope of direction, and allowed things to take their own course. Mr. Ness gave an idea as to the capabilities of the Warora coal fields by stating that there were by computation 500,000,000 tons of coal within 14 miles. In consequence of the timidity of the natives he had adopted, after training them as pikemen in the ordinary way of getting coal, the long wall system, although the coal was only about an 11-ft. seam. They were able to raise 100 tons a day, and it took three or four natives to do the work of one English collier: 100 tons per day might not seem much, but the effect was wonderful. Previously the natives were listless creatures, who were satisfied with a hand full of rice per day. Now they were busy people, earning honest money by honest toil, decently clad, instead of being in indecent rags, living in better homes, and taking better food. (Hear, hear, and applause.) There was, as a matter of course, considerable fear among the natives as to going down the pit, but, providentially, in the sinking they lost not a finger, and the men took kindly to the work. In fact, he had difficulty in directing their rashness, but found after a little trouble that they were amenable to law and order. He had trained them as blacksmiths and carpenters, although they were perpetually recurring to their ancient modes of work, which were exceedingly wasteful of strength. About 50 miles from them was a hill, with a rich vein of ironstone, and he calculated that it contained 3,000,000 tons of rich ore; there were similar hills in the neighbourhood. Mr. Ness hoped the time would soon come when the seam would be worked, and iron made in India, which would not interfere with the trade of England, for the more money made in India the better for the home country. India would want 70,000 miles of railway, and he would tell them that when there was a network of railways the question of famine would be settled. There were but 400 miles now in India between plenty and scarcity, but there was the difficulty of transit, and the poor died in thousands. He had seen over and over again food rotting for want of carriage, and he was glad to know that the Government had ordered 200 locomotives and 3000 carriages. They were about to place 11,500 tons of rails; this would clear out some stock, and ultimately do good to trade. Mr. Ness exhibited a large number of fossils, pieces of coal, coke, and specimens of ironstone and iron. He concluded a very interesting address by expressing a hope that the prosperity of England and its great dependency would go hand in hand, as he believed they would.

In answer to questions, Mr. NESS said the coal was not "faulty." Gas had not been seen by him. All the coal raised was used for locomotive purposes. The temperature was as high as 170 in the sun and 115 in the shade; but the climate, since the drainage connected with the sinking of the shafts, was dry and not unpleasant. Calcutta, with its lower temperature, was not so pleasant, because of the moisture of the atmosphere. Their coal was valued at 12s. per ton, but much of this was due to deadweight, which would be reduced when the men could raise more coal by becoming skilled labourers.

Mr. JOHNSON proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Ness, and said they wanted no further proof of his success in India than the very

acid address they had heard that evening. He was proud to see Mr. Ness in that room once more. He would carry with him the best wishes of those present. (Applause).—Mr. JOHN FIELD seconded the motion, and said he was glad that a member of their institute had been chosen for the very arduous and delicate task of opening up a valuable coal field and instructing the natives in the art of coal winning.—Mr. JOHN HUGHES supported the motion, which was carried unanimously amid applause.—Mr. Ness briefly replied, and in a humorous manner promised the institute a hearty welcome if they utilised one of their annual excursions by visiting Warora.—The members then inspected the fossils, and various plans prepared by a native. These latter excited general admiration. Mr. Ness presented the fossils and specimens to the institute. The former comprised parts of fresh-water turtle, Nappau shells, coprolites, and fishes. The latter, specimens of coal, coke, and iron.

RECENT COPPER EXTRACTING PROCESSES.

A number of processes for the extraction of copper from its ores by the wet way were referred to in an interesting paper read before the Royal Society of New South Wales, by Mr. S. L. BENSUSAN, who remarked that in all these processes the aim has been to extract the metal by processes requiring the smallest outlay in plant, &c., coupled with the minimum expenditure in chemicals and labour. Mr. Bensusan seeks to impress upon mineral explorers that methods are available for giving a value to mining property without preliminary large outlay; but it is not intended to imply that after inexpensive proof of value has been obtained, economy and profit may not better attained by the introduction of labour-saving appliances even at great outlay, though it is urged that the large outlay can be deferred until its justification is definitely and conclusively demonstrated. Referring to the sulphuric acid process in use at the Kapunda, he remarks that they successfully treat an ore with only $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 per cent. of copper. But the conditions there are peculiarly favourable, inasmuch as the mineral operated on consists of a vast heap of many thousands of tons of tailings which have already passed through the dressing machine; consisting principally of oxides and carbonates, it requires no preliminary desulphurization, while the sulphuric acid is made on the spot from iron pyrites, which exists in great abundance on the property. The ore is digested in the acid until all the copper is dissolved out, several successive portions being treated in the same liquor up to the point of saturation; it is then allowed to settle, and run off clear into a large vessel containing scrap iron, which throws down the copper as cement copper. He does not pretend that at many places in New South Wales conditions precisely the same as at Kapunda can be found, but he maintains that there are many places where a little modification of the process may be made with profitable results—where large deposits of copper pyrites exist containing 2 to 3 per cent. of copper, the pyrites itself serving in many cases for providing its own sulphuric acid for the subsequent treatment of the oxidised or desulphurised ores.

According to the Snowden or Lime process, for the success of which the ore should be chiefly sulphurets and limestone, should be obtainable on the ground; the mineral containing copper pyrites is crushed mixed with a small proportion (rarely exceeding 5 per cent.) of burnt lime; the mass is then shaped into bricks roasted at a low heat for a short time, when double decomposition takes place, the sulphide of copper becoming a sulphate, and the lime being converted into sulphide of calcium. The bricks are rapidly crushed, and fall into water, wherein the soluble sulphate is washed out, and subsequently precipitated with hydrogen sulphide. The Hunt and Douglas, Claudet's, and some other processes well known to the readers of the Journal, are described and in conclusion, he remarks that the study of the subject has convinced him that where the extraction of copper is the sole consideration, and where the quality is pretty good, there is no process of reduction more economical and more suitable than the old fashioned smelting process. But where there are difficulties as to fuel or flux, and in new countries where smelting can only be carried on at a disadvantage, he appears to consider the wet process might be advantageously used. The paper contains much valuable information, and will doubtless be widely read.

ELECTRO-MAGNETIC ENGINES.

Some improvements in electro-magnetic engines, which appear well calculated to secure the maximum of power, as the surfaces of the magnet faces and armatures can be increased almost indefinitely, have been invented by Mr. J. H. LOVE, of Sunderland. These improvements consist in a disc or wheel attached to a shaft, one end of which rests in a bearing fixed on a plate. The other end of the shaft is connected to a crank fixed on a shaft working in bearings. The disc or wheel fixed on the first shaft named is constructed of soft iron, solid or in plates, or of soft iron and other metals; or the disc or wheel may have armatures arranged in sections on or near its periphery, and to or near its centre; around this disc or wheel are arranged electro-magnets at suitable distances, and in number as required by the power desired to be exerted on the crank pin before described.

To the electro-magnets any suitable battery is applied, which, when so applied to the magnets, they then attract the face or periphery of the disc or wheel nearest to one or more of such magnets consecutively; and to effect this continuous consecutive arrangement of attraction from the magnet or magnets, a commutator formed of a dividing plate connected to the crank-axle or shaft rotated, and is worked by a spring or other suitable means from the crank-axle. By these several means an oscillating or undulating rotary action is given to the disc or wheel, and rotary motion to the crank shaft for the purpose of delivering motive-power from such crank shaft. For some purposes he arranges several discs or wheels around the one attached to the crank for additional power, all of which are worked as hereinbefore described, but to apply their force on the central disc or wheel. For some purposes he employs a non-conducting material between the disc or wheel and the magnets, and between the magnets themselves, for the purpose of preventing impact of the several parts.

For some purposes he employs a wheel and pinion in lieu of the crank to give motion to the shaft from which motive-power is to be taken, as described; and for some purposes he fixes the disc or wheel on the crank pin of a shaft rotating in two or more bearings; and when he constructs the periphery of such disc or wheel of soft iron, entire or in sections, or of other suitable metals, he arranges the electro-magnets around the same. By this arrangement the disc or wheel is drawn round from the crank pin for its centre as an eccentric, and rotary motion is given to such crank shaft by the electro-magnet's battery and commutator acting as hereinbefore described. As the improvements are capable of various modifications without departing from the principle thereof, he does not restrict himself to the precise form or dimensions of the several parts, nor to the number of discs or wheels to be employed nor to the metals or batteries to be used, nor to the placing of the magnets around the discs or wheels, as the same may be placed anywhere on the discs or wheels or around the same, nor to the precise arrangement of the several parts thereof.

STEAM-ENGINES.—The invention of Messrs. JURISCH and LEWIS, of Widnes, consists in forcing the exhaust steam of non-condensing steam-engines back into the boiler or boilers, thereby utilising as nearly as possible the full amount of the latent heat contained in the steam. To effect this purpose they employ another boiler or boilers, generating steam of very much higher pressure than that used for the engine. With this higher pressure of steam they operate a suitably arranged steam pump or pumps, pumping the exhaust steam directly from the steam cylinders or through an intermediate reservoir (or they may by preference employ a suitable injector) into the boiler or boilers supplying the engine, the exhaust steam from the steam pump or injector being also forced into the lower pressure or engine boiler. By these means they convert the exhaust steam not only from the steam engine proper, but also from the steam pump or injector, into steam of the pressure of the engine

being made with the winze in the bottom of the 800, on the fissure. The 600 drift is within 10 or 12 ft. of the fissure; we expect to make the connection with the winze some time this month. There is no change in any other part of the mine. The furnaces are doing good work; the returns this week are better than last, and the grade of ore has been higher. The returns from the new furnaces is looking favourable for a very good run. Everything both in the mine and on the surface is in a very satisfactory condition.

Mr. RICHARDSON, replying to a question, said Mr. Godbe held the Flavilla in trust for the company. It was quite the usual thing to put property held by an English company in America into the name of a citizen of the United States—as Mr. Godbe was. Even the large railway companies had their property held in

grade ore and limestones. The 600 main west drift is looking very promising; within the last 20 ft. drifting we have struck several pockets of discoloured limestone and iron ore. The 600 south drift is being driven on the quartzite to come under the ore in the 400; it is very soft ground, and easily worked. Good progress is

the first section on Wednesday last, but I am now
working, when I shall endeavour to make a contract for the others.—

wealth that would astonish the world; for, according to my notions of mining, even in our deepest mines, we are only just scratching on the vast wealth that is contained in our great lodes; but I never hear of the waste of time and money in sinking downright shafts but I think of a little bal not 20 miles to the west of Cambrone. The sett was found to have seven or eight lodes, and it was decided by Capt. Jack, the manager, to sink a downright engine-shaft in a central place to take the main lode at the 60 fm. level. All went well until they got down 40 fms., when a bed of ironstone as hard as an anvil was reached. Capt. Jack didn't know what to do, but at last it was agreed to try one of the side lodes by a flat-rod, and sink away on the course of the lode; the prospects were so encouraging that another flat-rod was fixed to try a second lode, and also the third and fourth lodes, and when the concern had a prosperous appearance Capt. A. V. was called in to give his report, &c. After he had examined all the surface works Capt. Jack asked what he thought of the bal. 'I should think, Capt. Jack,' says Capt. A., 'that thy mother longed for flat-rods.'" "I wonder," says Jan Jewill, "how much time and money have been lost in sinking downright shafts?" "That's a question," says Cousin Will, "that would puzzle the adventurers to answer."—*From Cousin Jack's Unpublished MSS.*

AUTOXYDE SAFETY-LAMP.—An improved safety-lamp is at present being manufactured by Mr. A. B. BOULLENOT, sen., of Issy-sur-Seine, near Paris, the leading principle of which is that the compressed air which is furnished to the lamp in quantities just sufficient to ensure perfect combustion is taken from outside the mine, or at least from a part of the mine which is free from fire-damp. The exterior air is conducted to the lamps inside the mine by means of an iron pipe. The air so distributed to the lamps is submitted to a variable pressure according as the lamps are placed at a more or less distance from the reservoir of air or from the cisterns, which can be placed at different points in the mine. The principle of the inventor then rests essentially upon the canalisation of the exterior air after the manner of the canalisation of gas for the lighting of towns. This lamp repels on the one side the carbonate hydrogen gas, while at every instant it is purified from the carbonic acid produced from the combustion; solid iron bars protect and enclose it. The wick is fed with oil by the principle of capillarity; it is necessary only to measure the quantity of oil to know the number of hours one wishes the lamp to burn, or to make a bigger lamp. Fixed at different points in the mine it serves the miner with light in every direction by means of a reflector, which can be turned round at will; however, in case of need, the lamp may be carried by an experienced miner, because small vulcanised india-rubber may be affixed to any of the air taps which are placed along the principal tube. The whole apparatus is composed of two parts, which are connected by the iron tube which conveys the air from outside the mine. First, there is the generator or reservoir, which is always furnished with air by the aid of a bellows, moved by the eccentric of a steam-engine near the pit, the pumping-engine for example; and then there is the lamp itself, which is so made that it can be screwed to the tubing, which is attached to the main air-pump. The lamps are to be fixed in the mine, and it is remarked that the incontestable utility of this system of lamps at fixed distances, and that which is its principle, is that the miner cannot interfere with it nor open it, hence it is like the gas system in the streets of a town under the supervision of a special officer attending to the lighting of the mine, which will lessen the chances of accident. From a short distance it can also furnish air to explorers provided with air-tight dresses such as are commonly used by divers.

SAFETY-LAMPS FOR BURNING PETROLEUM OIL.—According to the invention of Mr. LIKTAR, of Molembech, St. Jean, near Brussels, the vessel or reservoir holding the oil is divided into two parts by a horizontal partition, which may be curved or of any suitable form. The said partition separates the upper part of the said vessel or reservoir from the lower part, the two said parts communicating together by a small aperture, through which the oil from the upper part may pass into the lower part. The wick is enclosed in a metal tube, by preference flit which extends to nearly the bottom of the oil vessel or reservoir, being terminated at the bottom by a cap, in which is a very small hole for the admission of oil to the wick. A cylindrical cup is soldered or fixed to the outside of the said tube, and screws into a collar or flange formed in the centre of the partition aforesaid, so that the wick tube is by it fixed in position. Upon the said cup fit the ordinary adjustments, which with the top of the wick tube from the burner. Round the lower part of the said cup is a series of holes opening into the upper part of the oil vessel or reservoir, and opening into the said cup is a series of holes in the wick tube, by which holes, if the lamp be upset, the oil in the wick tube passes into the said cup, and from thence into the upper compartment of the oil reservoir. From the foregoing description it will be understood that by means of the arrangement described the wick is kept quite separate from the oil in the reservoir, with which it communicates only by the minute aperture in the bottom of the tube, which tube is made to contain the smallest quantity possible of oil, due regard being had to the proper burning of the lamp; and also that as the oil reservoir is divided into two parts by the partition hereinbefore described, into which partition the wick tube is screwed tightly, if the lamp be upset the oil contained in the said wick tube flows into the cylindrical cup before described, and from thence into the upper part of the reservoir; also that the partition described isolates the oil from the flame, which cannot heat the said oil nor produce explosive gas therefrom.

IMPROVED HYDRAULIC ELEVATOR.—Mr. GEORGE BALL, of Springfield, Illinois, has patented an invention designed to furnish an apparatus for removing piles, steel ingots, and other heavy pieces of iron and steel from heating furnaces; also for removing in packing-houses, dead animals from scalding vats, and for other purposes; and the invention consists of a steam or hydraulic ram, connected by suitable transmitting pulleys and ropes with standards of the different furnaces, the ram being operated by starting cords connected to the steam entrance valve, and provided with devices for exhausting the cylinder and cushioning the ram piston. For the purpose of removing a pile or other body from the furnace the cushioning and exhaust rod tappets on the ram are adjusted to give a stroke equal to one-half length of the distance to which the pile is to be moved. The buggy is placed under the foot plate of the furnace-door, when the heater's helper takes the tongue attached to the chain, introduces them into the furnace, and grasps the pile. The helper assumes a position near the starting rope, and when all is ready pulls the same, at first gradually, to take up the slack of the same. Steam is thereby admitted into the cylinder of the ram, the piston propelled upward, the line of rope taken up, and the pile delivered on the buggy in good shape. The starting rope is then released by the helper, so that the spring of the lever shuts off the steam, exhausting that in the cylinder, and causing the piston-head to return to its original place ready for the next pull. In case the spring should fail to work, the whole stroke is made by the piston until the cross-head strikes the exhaust tappet, accomplishes the exhaust, and shuts off the steam, bringing the piston back to rest.

RE-OPENING OF CADZOW COLLIERY.—An event of great consequence to the district has just occurred in the re-opening of Cadzow Colliery, which, in consequence of the fire that broke out in the workings on June 26, has been at a standstill for four months. Readers will remember that the fire attained such proportions that the only practicable means of gaining the mastery over it was to close the whole of the mines, which was accomplished by hermetically sealing the mouths of the shafts and air-courses. Matters remained in this position for a space of two months. The water in that time accumulated and flooded the workings, and in the absence of air to feed the flame, every hope at the end of that period was entertained that the burning had been suppressed. The powerful Cornish engine at the works was set to work to remove the water, an operation which occupied nearly three months. A descent was then made into the workings to ascertain the state of the roof. Contrary to every expectation, the damage was found to be quite nominal, caused for the most part by falls from the roof. The brief period of fifteen days sufficed to set things to rights, and a large number of miners having been taken from the coal is once more on the market. Colonel Austine and Mr. Ralph Moss, Government Inspector, examined the workings, and found them free of gas. In a successful manner in which this great catastrophe has been retrieved reflects very highly on the management. —*Glasgow Herald.*

NORTH LAKEY.—R. Rowe, Oct. 23 : After carefully examining the day, I am pleased with the prospect. In the 145 driving south there is a lode, about 3 ft. wide, chiefly composed of ore-bearing quartz, and yielding same time good stones of lead. I feel sure if this level is carried forward to the south ground of the mine, under the stopes at present giving our ore

the east one a ft., making a
FROM E. Jones, Oct 23: We have discontinued the cross-cut south
western level, and we are now driving east on the south part of the lode,
the south wall of the lode in the level, against which we find a strong

WEDNESDAY.—North British stock was rushed up to 95 in the morning; later in the day there was a sharp reaction, and the price at the close was 87½. Great Eastern rose from 60 to 61½. The directors of Eberhard received notice of remittance of bar silver valued at 200*l*. Shares left off 5 to 5½. Exchequer, 6½ to 8*s*. I.X.L., 5*s*. To 7*s*. 6*d*. Malabar, 1-8*ths* to 3-16*ths*. Port Philip, ¼ to ⅜. The shares of Eley Brothers were today quoted 2½ to 2*s*, or 10*s*. higher. The new shares of the same firm were offered at 2*s*. 6*d*. to 3*s*. 6*d*. The company now stand at a remarkable profit of 250,000*l*. to acquire the well-known business

THURSDAY.—The stoppage of the Northfield Iron Company was announced. The works are in the neighbourhood of Sheffield. Started five years ago, then

from junctions in depth. The deep adit will unwater all these lodes to a depth of about 100 fms., which is a great feature in mining—the saving of pumping power.

SADDLEBACK (Lead).—A good discovery of ore has been made in these mines during the last week. The middle level is being driven on Gatekill vein, and the ore which has more or less pervaded the vein for the last 25 fathoms has improved very much, and is now worth 30*l.* per fathom. The water issuing from the end is very heavy, and of a reddish colour. Middle Tongue vein will be cut in a fathom or two, so that everything points to the apparent certainty of a rich and lasting mine being opened out, the backs being about 70 fathoms in height.

MINING PROSPECTS IN NORTH DEVON.—The North Devon district has been neglected by the mining interest for many years, but now there is a prospect of a dozen mines being opened and worked before another year is over. The prospects of silver-lead mining at Combmartin are exceeding the anticipations of the most sanguine and some remarkable specimens of ore have been exhibited at Barnstaple within the last few weeks, having been taken from lodes in the Combmartin district. A number of earnest speculators are at work trying the ground, and from our own knowledge the operations are being carried out in the least expensive manner, so that the shareholders' capital shall not be wasted as we have known in some sets.

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20 HORN CHOS £13 0 0
TRY V-FRON.—Specimens of the ore from the eastern end of the adit level arrived this day; to be seen at 259, Gresham House, the office of the company, where orders for the inspection of the mine can be had.
Address, Mr. H. WILKINS, 3, Heybourne Villas, Tottenham, N.E.

MR. W. MARLBOROUGH, STOCK AND SHARE DEALER,
29, BISHOPSGATE STREET, LONDON, E.C. (Established 21 Years),
can sell the following SHARES, at prices annexed:—

15 Argentine, £2 12s. 6d.	40 Flagaft, £2 5s.	10 Pateley Bridge, £2.
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15 Bampfyld, £s. 3s.	10 Grogwinon, £3s. 3d.	60 Port Phillip, 10s. 6d.
50 Bodidrie, £1 2s. 6d.	10 Huilafal, 25s.	25 Rookhope, 21s. 6d.
30 Combmartin, 5s. 9d.	30 Last Chance, 18s. 6d.	10 Richmond, £6 18s. 9d.
25 Condes of Chili, £25s.	15 Llanrwst.	10 Roman Grav., £8 5s.
20 Colorado, £1 17s. 6d.	20 Leadhills, £5 2s. 6d.	100 S. Roman Grav., 10s.
20 Cakemore.	20 N. Quebrada, £2 2s. 6d.	20 Santa Barbara, £1 18
25 Chicago, £1 8s. 9d.	40 Nih. Laxey, 13s. 6d.	15 Tankerville, £5 3s. 6d
5 D'Eresby, £18s.	20 New Zealand Kap.,	100 Tecoma, 8s. 6d.
10 East Lovell, £1 9s.	£1 9s.	40 Van Cossols, 11s. 3d.
10 East Van, £3 13s. 9d.	30 Marke Valley, 16s. 6d.	10 W. Craven Moor, £3 10
25 Devon Consols, £3 7s	50 Malabar, 4s. 6d.	15 W. Wye Valley.
20 Derwent, £2 2s. 6d.	3 Minera, £18s.	20 Wye Valley.
20 Eberhardt, £5.	20 Mon. Gorddu.	50 W. Tankerville, 16s 9d
25 Exchequer, 17s.	10 Pennant, £5.	25 W. Godolphin, £1 15s.
75 East Carol, £s. 6d.	10 Pestarena, 5s. 3d.	50 Wh. Crebor, 25s., c.p.
25 Frontino, £3.	40 Prince of Wales, 8s.	50 Yorke Peninsula, 5s 3d
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GREAT HOLWAY.—SPECIALLY RECOMMENDED.
Shares bought and sold at net prices. Telegrams promptly attended to.

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THE RISE IN TIN SHARES AND INVESTMENTS GENERALLY.

MR. JOHN B. REYNOLDS should be consulted as to the PRESENT and FUTURE PROSPECTS of the TIN TRADE. All communications considered as strictly private. Reliable advice given on all investments. Telegrams promptly attended to.
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SPECIAL BUSINESS in Cambrian shares.

V A N L E A D M I N E . —
Particulars of this very valuable Mine will be found in the SIXTH EDITION of Mr. MURCHISON's work on BRITISH LEAD MINES, published THIS DAY, with Maps, &c., price 2s. 6d. The Prefaces to the Six Editions price 1s.
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"Contains a good deal of information that may be useful at present. Mr Murchison's theory is briefly that on the average British Lead Mines have less of the lottery element in them than any others, and the figures he gives seem to support that view; at all events, those interested in this industry will find his facts and discussions worth reading."—Times.
"Calculated to be a great boon to investors."—Mining Journal.
"We have great pleasure in recommending his treatise."—Morning Post.
"We invite capitalists to look into this means of investment."—Money Mark Review.

Notices to Correspondents.

* Much inconvenience having arisen in consequence of several of the Numbers during the past year being out of print, we recommend that the Journal should be kept on receipt; it then forms an accumulating useful work of reference.

COPPER STANDARD.—"T. H. M." (Amhurst-road).—The two standards referred to have no connection with each other—one is for Cornish ores of 6½ per cent; the other for a better class of ore, and for 9 per cent. produce. "T. H. M." should remember that 1 ton of fine copper is contained in little more than 11 tons of 9 per cent. ore, whilst 15 tons of 6½ per cent. ore will contain scarcely more than 1 ton of fine copper.

MINING JOURNAL FOR SPAIN.—"J. J. T." (Aguilas).—The subscription for Spain is 39 frs., or 11. 10s. 4d. if the amount be remitted to London, or paid to us in London annually; but owing to the heavy cost of collecting in Spain, as compared with other European countries, we are compelled to draw for 50 frs. when the amount is collected at the subscriber's residence.

ANGLO-BRAZILIAN.—The address enquired for, in last week's Journal, by "E. T. S." (Bideford), is—Mr. Robert Wendeborn, Passagem, Marianna, Minas Geraes, Brazil.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.—REDUCTION OF POSTAGE ON THE "MINING JOURNAL."—In consequence of the new postal convention, which came into operation on July 1, the postage of the Mining Journal to many countries will be reduced to one-fourth. Henceforth the subscription will be 11. 10s. 4d. per annum (39 frs.), postage included, for the following countries. The amount will, if desired, be collected at the subscriber's residence at the end of each year. The subscription continues until countermanded:—Austria, France, Belgium, Denmark (including Iceland and the Faroe Islands), Egypt, Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Heligoland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal (including Madeira and the Azores), Roumania, Russia, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, United States, Malta, Turkey, Morocco, Tunis, and the Canary Islands. Spain 11. 10s. (50 frs.)

Received.—"H. S." (San Francisco, Oct. 4).—"Shareholder" (Wheal Crebhor).—"Constant Reader" (Newcastle).—"Omega" (Ramsgate).—"M. N."—"J. W. S."—"Miner" (Deansgate).—"B. R."—"Shareholder" (Leeds).—"S. S." (Antrim).—"H. M."—"Shareholder" (Wheal Greenville). The letter can only appear with the writer's name appended—"Shareholder" (Flagstaff). The information is given in this week's Journal.

THE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET.—We have received occasional complaints, and of late a good many, that the Journal is delivered by country booksellers without the Supplement. Subscribers would oblige us by demanding that the paper should be handed to them complete, as every Journal is accompanied by the Supplement when it leaves our office, and the fault of omission must rest with the country bookseller or their London agent.

SHARE DEALING.—We never interfere in the sale or purchase of shares; neither do we recommend any particular mine for investment or speculation, or broker through whom business should be transacted. The addresses of most of the latter appear in our advertising columns.

AMERICAN SUBSCRIBERS.—In reply to several enquiries, it may be stated that subscribers in the United States can be supplied with the Mining Journal post free, at the price of \$5.00 gold per annum, payable in advance, by remitting to Mr. D. Van Nostrand, publisher, and importer of scientific books, &c., Murray-street, New York; or, direct to our Office, 26 Fleet-street, E.C.

THE MINING JOURNAL.

Railway and Commercial Gazette.

LONDON, OCTOBER 27, 1877.

COLLIERY EXPLOSIONS.

Two colliery accidents in opposite parts of the kingdom within a fortnight, involving a loss of upwards of 250 lives, are the latest additions to be added to the many that have preceded them from explosions of fire-damp, and to increase the long list of victims who have succumbed in total darkness to the devastating effects of carburetted hydrogen, or fire-damp. The disasters at Glasgow and Wigan were evidently the result of identical causes, and remind one of the terrible explosions which took place at Lund Hill, Hartley, the Oaks, and Swithie Main, as well as of some of those which occurred at mines in South Wales, and which any practical and able man believe were all preventable. Under such circumstances, and seeing that the cause of all these terrible fatalities in connection with our coal mines were identical in the main, it may well be asked what benefit we have derived from the experience of the past, seeing that on all occasions when there has been a serious loss of life from accidents in collieries we have been favoured with the opinions of the ablest mining engineers of the country as to the best means for preventing such sad calamities. Yet with all the knowledge it might reasonably be supposed we have added to our old stock from the inquiries made as to the origin of explosions in collieries we appear to have fallen back into the old ruts as soon as the grave has swallowed up its hundreds of victims, and the name of the place where some appalling catastrophe has taken place is only remembered by the sorrowing families of those who were killed.

Without alluding particularly to either of the two recent explosions, or in any way endeavouring to anticipate the inquiries respecting them that will be made, we certainly hold that an explosion of fire-damp at a colliery where all the prescribed rules are fully carried out should be all but impossible. This is clear from the wording of the first General Rule of the Act of 1872, which provides that so far as reasonably practicable an "adequate amount of ventilation shall be constantly produced in every mine to dilute and render harmless the noxious gases to such an extent that the working places of the shafts, levels, &c., shall be in a fit state for working and passing therein." If that rule is fully carried out we cannot see how an explosion can take place, but if the ventilation is neglected, or no provision made for any probable change of atmospheric pressure, then an accident, however serious, ought not to create any surprise. But we certainly think that the time has come when explosions ought to be looked upon as preventable, although some of our contemporaries consider that such is not the case, although in expressing so much in that direction they are opposed to the views of scientific and practical men. With respect, however, to the occurrence near Glasgow, the Times makes some very pertinent remarks, which quite coincide with our own opinions. They are to the effect that the explosion belongs to that class of accidents which ought never to have been suffered to occur, and that there is grave doubt whether it ought properly to be set down as an accident at all. But some of the other daily papers fall back upon the favourite theory so often found convenient by non-practical men, which connects a fall of the barometer with the escape of fire-damp in collieries resulting in an almost inevitable explosion. This theory many of our oldest colliery managers have entirely discarded, for they consider that hitherto far too much reliance has been placed on the barometer, and that other means should be looked for to ascertain what are the causes of the violent eruptions of gas in mines that was experienced from time to time. It has also been suggested by some of them that natural currents of electricity may lead to a liberation of those forces which occasionally lead to such serious disasters as those we have had recently to chronicle. With respect to the barometer many of our mining engineers look upon it with supreme indifference, although the adoption of it in coal mines is enjoined by Act of Parliament.

The present manager of the well-known Oaks Colliery, in South Yorkshire, Mr. WILSON, who has had great experience with respect to sudden outbursts of gas and their attendant destructive properties, publicly stated that the barometer, so far as mines were concerned, could well be dispensed with, for he had noticed that when they had a large quantity of gas previous to the barometer falling they had it also previous to its rising. But it is to be feared that men of less ability place far too much reliance on the reading of the barometer to the neglect of more ordinary and practical precautions, for it has been found in some instances that the alteration in the state of the gas has not been indicated by the barometer until eight hours after the occurrence. What is, then, required is that the ventilation of a colliery should be such as not to be dangerously affected either by fluctuations of the barometer or from any other ordinary cause, for in collieries which are known to give off a good deal of gas provision should always be made for overpowering any sudden outburst of it by the amount of air passing through the workings. In such mines, too, it is of the deepest importance that naked lights should not be used, but the best of safety-lamps only in every working place. But there is another source of danger, and which has, probably, led to more disastrous explosions

in collieries than any other—and that is blasting with powder. And here we may state that at the Pemberton Colliery, at Wigan, as well as at the one at High Blantyre, the coal was brought down by shot firing, and at the former, at least, were not discharged exclusively during the night. Now, on more than one occasion with respect to the loss of life which has taken place in Lancashire in particular, we have drawn attention to the great danger which must ever prevail in all mines where it was found necessary for the ordinary safety of the men to use safety-lamps, but where, at the same time, powder was used for the purpose of bringing down the coal. Danger accumulates upon danger, and the men, to whom is entrusted almost unlimited quantities of powder, use it unsparingly, without consideration, or examining the different parts of the mine to see whether gas has been gathering in such quantities that it would be ignited by the flame from a shot. When such a system is carried out need anyone be surprised to hear of explosions in which scores and hundreds of lives are sacrificed to the thoughtlessness—or it may be the negligence—of one or two men? But we are told that the men whose duty it is to fire the shots are set apart for that purpose with clear and intelligent instructions to guide them.

But so far as we are aware it is not their duty to examine the working places or any goaves that may be in the vicinity of the place where a shot is about to be fired. If they were to do so we cannot see how an explosion could take place provided all the lamps were in an efficient state. To prevent such catastrophes, however, the only sure and effectual means is to prohibit the use of gunpowder in all mines where safety-lamps are considered essential to the safety of the men in underground workings. In South Yorkshire, since the destructive explosion at Swithie Main a few years ago, the men at most of the collieries determined not to use powder, but to fell the coal by the far more laborious process of wedging, and the consequence has been that the most fiery mining district in the kingdom, and the one where the loss of life has been the greatest from the blasting of the coal, has enjoyed an immunity from colliery explosions which it never knew before. Let the same course be adopted in Lancashire and other places where the mines are known to have dangerous accumulations of gas oozing from the coal, and such calamities as those which have recently taken place at the Pemberton and Blantyre Collieries would be all but unknown, and until such a course is carried out we shall no doubt frequently have colliery explosions with great loss of life, followed by appeals to the public for the support of the widows and children of the men whose lives in all probability would have been spared had a safer and different but well-known system of getting coal been adopted. We do not say that any persons in particular are to blame for the carrying out of a system so fraught with danger, and it is quite probable that the men would be opposed to any change, seeing that they would have to make some sacrifice of wages in working with the safe wedge instead of the dangerous and deadly powder.

In the coal field of the Clyde Basin, we would just remark, some of the seams are known to give off a good deal of gas, which, of course, will be found in the places where the coal has been worked out, and these excavations at all times should be suspected even where there are no openings between the excavations and the beds. At Blantyre the men it appears were working back getting the pillars and props that had been left when the great bulk of the coal was worked out, so that they would leave large openings behind them, to which the inflammable gas would find its way in considerable quantities. The pillars and posts are told were brought down by blasting, so that the probability is that from where a shot was fired would be but a short distance from an open space, which might only be a reservoir for gas, and requiring but a spark to ignite it. But as all that relates to the terrible Scotch catastrophe will be made known in due time we refrain from further comment upon it. But we cannot but once more call upon colliery owners whose seams are known to give off gas in considerable quantities requiring the men to work with safety-lamps, to do all they can to discountenance the use of gunpowder for the sake of their own property as well as of the lives of their workmen. Were they to do so we should have very few accidents to record by explosions, whilst hundreds of men would not be cut off in their prime, for there is no reason why one-third at least of the whole of the miners should be prematurely cut off by the hand of death, or why the wife and family should become dependent on public charity for a bare maintenance. On the other hand, without the use of powder a colliery when properly drained and ventilated may be made not only healthy but more salubrious and agreeable as a place of work than those in which many kinds of labour are carried on above ground. This is what we desire to see effected, so that the men in our mines may be not only healthy but work with the full knowledge that they are doing so with safety, and that explosions of gas are an impossibility.

THE COAL PRODUCTION OF THE WORLD.

The coal production of the globe has enormously extended during the last 30 years. It is only when we bring a severe statistical analysis to bear upon the subject that we can fully appreciate the progress which has been made. The six principal coal producing countries may be said to be Great Britain, Belgium, the United States, France, Prussia, and Austria, the expression Austria embracing, of course, Hungary. These six countries produced in 1845 an aggregate of 49,211,490 tons of coal, this aggregate being made up as follows:—Great Britain, 31,500,000 tons; Belgium, 4,960,077 tons; the United States, 4,400,000 tons; France, 4,141,617 tons; Prussia, 3,500,000 tons; and Austria, 709,706 tons. In 1874 the corresponding aggregate production of the six countries had grown to no less than 253,550,700 tons, Great Britain contributing to this imposing array of figures 125,043,300 tons; Belgium, 14,689,000 tons; the United States, 42,423,900 tons; France, 16,949,000 tons; Prussia, 41,754,600 tons; and Austria, 12,810,900 tons. Great Britain produced nearly one-half, it will be seen, of the whole coal extraction effected by the various nations under review. The immense supremacy of Great Britain over her neighbours in the matter of coal mining is reflected in the fact that in 1874 this country raised 39 tons of coal per head of its population, the corresponding proportion in the case of Belgium being 28 tons, in the case of the United States 10½ tons, in the case of France 4½ tons, in the case of Prussia 17 tons, and in the case of Austria 3½ tons. The coal extraction of Great Britain in 1874 was ten times as large as the corresponding production of Belgium, three times as large as that of the United States, three times as large as that of Prussia, eight times as large as that of France, and ten times as large as that of Austria. It should be noticed, however, that the coal production per head of the population effected by Belgium in 1874 approached more nearly to that of the United Kingdom than that of any other country. Even when subjected to this latter test, the coal production of Great Britain still maintains, however, a decided pre-eminence.

The great increase observable during the last three decades in the coal production of the various countries to which we have been directing attention is, of course, the result of a largely increased demand, and this demand has been very materially stimulated by the progress which has been achieved since 1845 in the work of railway construction. In 1845 Great Britain, Belgium, the United States, France, Prussia, and Austria possessed between them 9666½ miles of railway; in 1875 the corresponding total had grown to 128,151 miles, showing an increase of about 1400 per cent. Not only have railways consumed considerable quantities of coal and coke upon their own account, but they have also given an immense impetus to the development of steam-impelled industries; hence the demand for coal has been ever growing, and production, as a natural consequence, has kept pace with it. The greatest advance made by any country in the construction of railways in the course of the last 30 years has been achieved by France. Thus the French railway system, comparing 1875 with 1845, exhibits an advance of 2381 per cent., the corresponding advance in the case of Great Britain having been 558 per cent.; in the case of Belgium, 510 per cent.; in the case of the United States, 1423 per cent.; in the case of Prussia, 1459 per cent.; and in the case of Austria, 1551 per cent. There would appear to be a very close and intimate connection between the development of railways and the development of coal mining; but it is noticeable that while the establishment of railways in

France during the last 30 years has expanded at the rate of 2381 per cent., French coal mining has only advanced at the rate of 309 per cent. The French are not over fond of coal working.

COAL AND IRON IN THE UNITED STATES.—The market for steel rails has become unsettled at Philadelphia, and prices are the lower. The anxiety of some mills to secure business has resulted in lower quotations, and for the time being buyers are rather held off. It is expected, however, that some large contracts will be placed before the close of the month, but the continued and steady decline in prices seems to have shaken confidence. Quotations for main at \$44 to \$45 per ton currency, but purchases could be made at \$2 per ton less for cash. Business in iron rails has been quiet at Philadelphia, and only small sales have been reported. There has been rather an active demand for some descriptions of manufactures. Contracts are stated to be pending for several ocean steamers, demand for bar-iron is unsatisfactory. The general market for steel at Pittsburgh, and most of the mills are running, and full extent of their productive capacity. There has been some increasing business in scrap-iron at Pittsburgh, with the exception of old rails, which are extremely dull. The total production of anthracite and bituminous coal in Pennsylvania to Sept. 22 this year was 16,264,044 tons, as compared with 14,586,726 tons in the corresponding period of the year 1876.

THE COLLIERY ACCIDENT IN SCOTLAND.—As regards the destruction of life the Upper Blantyre calamity must be assigned a place among the most disastrous colliery accidents that have happened in the country—the total loss being 209. In fatality it does not equal the explosion at the Oaks Colliery, near Barnsley, by which some 200 men and boys were killed; but with this exception it is the most destructive on record. The Hartley Colliery accident involved the loss of 204 lives; some 200 miners were drowned by the flood of the Shankhouse Pit, in Northumberland, in 1867; over 145 were killed at Risca, and about 140 at the Swithie Main Colliery, in the Rhondda Valley, was almost as calamitous; near Barnsley. As to the cause of the disaster, we are left entirely to conjecture, and this being the case no good purpose can be served by discussing the purely speculative theories which have been set up on the subject. Mr. Ralph Moore, the energetic inspector of the district, has been most indefatigable in his attention and exertions into the cause of the explosion, as soon as practicable, he has been Mr. Willis, Inspector of Mines for Northumberland and Cumberland, has arrived at Blantyre, to assist Mr. Moore. Mr. Dickins, Inspector for South and East Lancashire and Ireland, and Mr. Wales, Inspector for South Wales, are on their way. Mr. Dickins, the principal proprietor of the colliery in which the calamity occurred, has headed an appeal to the public for aid to the widows and orphans by a subscription of 1000. We have fully referred the subject in another column of this day's Journal.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CERTIFICATED COLLIERY MANAGERS.—Another adjourned meeting in connection with the above Association was held on Saturday at the Brunswick Hotel, Manchester, the attendance was again only small, and the proceedings were an informal and private character. It may be stated, however, that a considerable number of letters have been received from colliery managers in various parts of the country, expressing their willingness to join the Association; and in order to further the organization of the society it is probable that before long meetings will be held at a number of central towns to ascertain the feeling of colliery managers in the various large mining districts of the country.

THE MINING INSTITUTE OF CORNWALL.—The excellent beginning made by this Association was prominently noticed in the Mining Journal at the time of its inauguration, and it is gratifying to find that the energy of the officials continues unabated. It has been arranged that the first exhibition and conversations shall be held at Camborne on Nov. 22 and the following day, and every means is being taken to ensure success. The general secretary (Mr. T. Provis) is inviting applications for space from intending exhibitors of scientific apparatus, minerals, pictures, &c.; whilst Mr. Willis Teague, jun., the secretary of the Mechanical Department, on behalf of the Mechanical Committee, is inviting inventors or possessors of models of machines applicable to mining purposes to communicate with him with a view to their exhibition. From the interest which has been taken in the Institute by the mine managers of Cornwall the exhibition would certainly appear well calculated for bringing useful novelties under their notice, and it is evident that the executive intend giving the gathering a practical business turn, for it is mentioned that there will be no charge for space, but a small commission on all articles sold. That there will be a good attendance is scarcely to be doubted, as it will afford the visitors an excellent opportunity of seeing what is being done, and judging what new inventions are more particularly applicable to the purposes of mines with which they are connected, whilst the certificates of merit which are to be awarded will be valuable to the exhibitors as showing that the merits of the exhibits have been recognised by practical men thoroughly acquainted with their use. It is understood that the President (Dr. C. Le Neve Foster) and secretaries have for some weeks past been preparing an attractive programme and that Prof. Bell's large size telephone is to be amongst the articles exhibited. The project is one which cannot fail to be of general advantage to visitors and exhibitors, and should, therefore, be warmly supported.

FIRELESS LOCOMOTIVE FOR TRAMWAYS.—An entirely new kind of locomotive has been for some time past in use in the tramways of New Orleans, the invention of Mr. THEODORE SCHUEFLER, of Paterson, New Jersey, and the result of a year's practical use has been very satisfactory. As a substitute for fire, hot water is charged from stationary boilers into a large tank carried by the engine, and suitably arranged for supplying the motion. The apparatus consists of a cylindrical tank 31 in. diameter and 9 ft. long, with a capacity of about 300 gallons for holding the hot water. The driving wheels are 30 in. in diameter, and the leading wheels 20 in., with a wheel base of 5 ft. 7 in. The cylinders are 4½ in. The valve gear consists of a main valve which works full stroke at all times, and controls the exhaust with a steam valve on the side, worked by a link which governs the admission. Both valves are, however, worked by the same link, and the valve gear has been patented by Mr. Schuefler. The total weight of the engine with tank full of water is under 4 tons. At the commencement of a journey the tanks are charged with water from a stationary boiler which is heated up to a temperature due to a pressure of 230 lb. per square inch. A six-mile run with an ordinary loaded street car reduces the pressure to 40 lbs. per square inch, and the tank gear gives quite automatically a variable cut off to suit the very wide range of pressure. One great difficulty which is counteracted in charging the boilers, it being no easy matter to contain water at heated uniformly to a temperature of 300°, and it is usually found that in running from the stationary boilers to the place where the engine was attached to the car the pressure would fall from 230 to 190 lbs., but the engine would even then run a distance of 3½ miles, and have 100 lbs. pressure in the tank at the end of that distance. With 80 lbs. pressure the engine would pull a fairly level tramway while the steam was cut off at 2 inches or one-fifth of the stroke. Further details are necessary to enable any accurate opinion being formed as to the probability of the invention proving permanently useful, but there is no doubt that it possesses the necessary elements of success.

GENERATING HEAT.—The invention of Mr. JAMES YOUNG, Kelly, Renfrewshire, consists in blowing steam through one or more tuyeres arranged in the lower part of furnaces or fire-places, so that the inducing action of the steam draws in with it atmospheric

...the steam and air become mixed, and in the mixed state dispersed amongst the ignited fuel and burned. The invention is especially applicable to furnaces for smelting ores.

REPORT FROM CORNWALL.

[illegible]

When an exception of any kind is made of any of the engines of this year we have no correspondence.

It has been remarked, apparently in reference to an observation of the need of greater attention being paid to the management of the engines, "that a University education is not necessary to get a man to shovel coals into the boiler of a Cornish engine." Undoubtedly for boiler fire-places is intended, but we pass that by. The question in question is not whether a University education is needed, but whether any education at all is required. Our engine-houses are very commonly—in the modest spirit we admit—been made the refuge of the destitute, the lame, the halt, and we might almost call the blind. If the duties of our enginemmen consist merely in shovelling coals into a boiler" probably they are very well fitted to discharge them, and their decrepitude may be a cause of economy by preventing a too active performance of that work. But even in a good deal more involved in the position of an enginemman than this. Even if we waive the point that the man who has to attend machinery should know something about it, the fact remains that stoking is not a mere rule of thumb, and that it is not done in the manner a Devonshire man is said to load his dung on a shovelling the stuff in as quick as he can, and till it can hold fire. In order that due economy may be exercised the fire-room must be supplied in the right quantities and at the right times. It may be quite within the mark when we say that three times the quantity of work may be got out of the same amount of coal used in the best advantage than when shovelled in with, to use the common phrase, a "what care I?" Again and again the importances of such suggestions as these has been denied, but sooner or later they are to be attended to. We admit now what we stated before, that the same duty cannot be got out of old engines as out of new ones, but that is no argument for not making the best of them. It is now that is done, or rather not done? It is not only in the nature of engines that we are behind hand, but a few years since we were coal economisers, which answer admirably, were brought immediately under the notice of our mine managers. They may be looked at them, but we do not believe there is one to be found in the mine in the county.

There appear to be fair prospects that the exhibition of matters connected with mining, to be held under the auspices of the Mining Institution, will be a success, certainly in the utilitarian point of view, which is the right view here, at any rate. There is plenty of room for the work which the Institute proposes to itself beyond the sphere in which the Polytechnic Society has so long and so usefully been working, but it must not be thought that to get up such an exhibition as is now proposed will be by any means an easy task; still every one may make it an annual affair.

We are glad to find that Messrs. Stocker are persevering in their attempts to introduce the hydraulic system as practised for gold and silver mining in California, &c., into the clay workings of Central Cornwall. Sooner or later this must revolutionise the method of mining the clay steps, economising labour, and relieving the men of the most disagreeable and arduous portion of their duties.

By the death of Mr. John Allen, of Stowford, Ivybridge, near Plymouth, Cornwall has lost one of the most deeply interested in its chief special industries. He was widely known as the head of the firm of Messrs. Allen and Sons, the proprietors of large paper mills at Ivybridge; but he was also the largest shareholder in a famous Old Delabole Slate Quarries, the present position of which great concern is due in no slight degree to his tact and his untiring energy. He died at a good old age, deeply lamented. Some of his most recent acts was, in connection with his sons, to have a Wesleyan chapel at Ivybridge at a cost of 6000*l*.

REPORT FROM NORTH AND SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE.

£2.5s.—Colliery owners are still complaining of a lack of business, the lackness is chiefly felt at those collieries where furnace fuel is mined. Most is being done at the pits where household manufacturing seams are worked combinedly. The Canals and Derbyshire colldowners are sending increased quantities of fuel into districts formerly supplied by pit proprietors in iron districts. The pig-iron trade is without revival, and is difficult to secure. All mine qualities are quoted at 4s. 10s. and forges are doing no less than they recently were, still there is no marked increase in the orders: 8s. 10s. is the crucial price.

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A meeting of shareholders in Joseph Wright and Co. (Limited) was held at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum was declared for the year ending June 30, carrying forward 1298*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.* to the credit of the reserve account. The Parkgate Wagon Company and the Northfield Wagon Company have suspended payments. The Parkgate Wagon Company, which was started five years ago, had a capital of 50,000*l.* The first two years it paid a dividend of 20 per cent. and then 10 per cent., but a loss of 8000*l.* was sustained last year, and the shareholders have resolved to wind-up the concern. The Northfield Wagon Company, with a capital of 50,000*l.*, also sustained heavy losses last year, and on Monday the works for the manufacture of tyres were closed.

It has been resolved to liquidate by arrangement the estate of James W. Stonehewer, iron merchant, of Horsely Heath, Tipton, in the name of the C.ounty Ironworks, of Horsely Heath, Tipton, to satisfy their creditors, with liabilities amounting to 15,789*l.*, and to assist the debtors commenced business in 1869, as iron manufacturers, and between that period and 1876 (when they ceased

manufacturing) they lost 10,696%, and in addition to this they have invested and lost 5000% in a South Wales Colliery.

Mr. Noah Hingley, of Dudley, a well known coal and ironmaster in South Staffordshire, died at his residence on Sunday at the ripe age of 82. The deceased gentleman was a county and borough magistrate, and an alderman of the borough, and was widely and deservedly esteemed.

The absorbing question in North Staffordshire is that of wages. A strike has been virtually commenced by the members of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers having waited on Lord Granville's agent to receive the arrears of pay which are kept in hand: 5000 miners are now idle, and it is feared that the strike will spread. Meanwhile there is no improvement either in the coal or iron trades.

At the conclusion of the coroner's enquiry into the boiler explosion which occurred last June at the Ravensdale Ironworks, Tunstall, the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death," coupling with it a recommendation that for the future new boilers and boilers after being repaired should be tested by hydraulic pressure; that no boiler should be worked beyond one-sixth of its bursting strain; and that boilers should always be under the control of competent persons, and should be properly inspected at every change of turn.

TRADE OF THE TYNE AND WEAR.

Oct. 24.—The demand for best house and gas coal continues to improve a little, and prices for these coals are firmer, but for all other kinds of coal and for cokes the demand is both unsatisfactory and unremunerative. At the Ryhope Colliery the pits have been got fully to work, and upwards of 2000 tons of coal were raised per day last week. At Silksworth the output is rapidly increasing, and 1200 tons of coal per day are now raised. When this place is fully developed it is expected that 3000 tons per day will be raised from the Hutten and Maudin seams. At Whitburn new winning the process of sinking by the Belgian Chaudron, or boring system, is now in full progress, and we give below some details, showing what has been accomplished so far. In Northumberland, collieries are still laid off daily. At Horsley Colliery, west of Newcastle, the hands, 120 in number, have got notice. The men at New Delaval Colliery have also got notice. One of the Cramlington pits at Shank House has also to be stopped. Some of the works, however, as at Cambois and Copen, have been doing better. The men have agreed to adopt the system of casting the small coal and shale got in holing back, thus returning to the old system, which was only discarded during the coal famine in 1873, and which has wrought such mischief. This is an important step, and it will lead to considerable benefit to all parties, as the owners will thus be relieved of the cost of drawing these waste coals from the workings to bank, and the cost of clearing the coals at surface for the market will also be considerably reduced. The men, however, refuse to accept the seven-hours work underground, which is much to be regretted, as has been pointed out in this letter. The time mentioned is quite necessary to enable a man to get his place properly holed, and the coal taken down. These short hours are another result of the coal famine alluded to above, and the habit will be difficult to break down now that it has been formed.

WHITBURN NEW BORING—The process of boring the shafts at Whitburn by the *Causton* process is now in progress. A borer 5 ft. in diameter is at work in the centre of the main shaft; when this borer is worked continuously night and day the rate of progress is 20 ft. per week, and 50 ft. has now been bored and completed 5 ft. in width; when this borer is put down to the bottom of the water-bearing strata 300 ft. the larger borer will be put to work, which will be 17 ft. in diameter, and when this is completed the rings of metal which are to form the tubing will be lowered securely bolted together. Those rings are cast complete the full size of the shaft, and in this case they are 14 ft. diameter inside and 5 ft. in depth, each piece weighing about 7 tons. The process is very interesting, both in the sinking process and the process of bringing up the debris produced. We have before described the process of sinking. The debris is brought up, and the shaft cleansed in this way. An iron tank is lowered down, which is simply a "wummel," so well known to borers, on a large scale. This tank is fitted with valves opening upwards at the bottom of the tank, and, of course, as it is worked into the bottom of the shaft the debris passes into it, and when it is drawn up those valves shut, and thus the shaft is quickly cleansed, from 1 to 2 tons of rubbish being brought up at one time. Before the iron tubing is lowered when the shaft is finished below the water-bearing strata a water-tight packing of a peculiar kind is fitted on the bottom flange, and when this lowered and made secure it only remains to pump the water out of the space inside the tubing. The shaft can then be sunk in the ordinary manner through the shales, which are generally free from water. When it is considered that the limestone at Whitburn is of a very hard nature the progress made must be considered satisfactory, and the success of the adventure may also be fairly calculated upon.

NORTH OF ENGLAND INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERS.

The North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers had an excursion last week to Stonecroft and Greyside, and the Settlingstone Lead Mines, near Newbrough, in Northumberland.

THE PRUDHAM STONE.—The party (about 150) first visited the works, adjoining the railway station, of Mr. W. Benson, the proprietor of the celebrated freestones and limestone quarries in that locality. The first thing to attract the attention of the visitors was a new stone-dressing machine—Hunter's patent. It was put in operation on the arrival of the visitors, and a stone about 5 ft. 9 in. in length, and 18 in. broad, was dressed in about 4½ minutes. The machine is considered to do the work of from 15 to 30 men. The full capacity of the machine, of course, can only be obtained when the full width of the cutter, which is 24 in., is cut over the full width of the stone of the same proportions. The machine is a great improvement upon those of the same kind formerly used. In the older machines the cut was straight upon the face of the stone, and consequently the wear and tear of the knives was very great. In the new arrangement the cutters revolve upon an axle, so that the cut is given in the shape of a curve or scoop, and consequently the edge of the cutter is much less damaged than in the former case. The machine is capable of dressing 300 superficial feet per day. In the same works are machines for similarly saving manual labour in the case of timber sawing and planing. The instruments are both manufactured by Messrs. Ramsden and Co., of Chelsea, London. One is a band saw which cuts circles, and which takes 20 or 30 weeks' similar article, and does the work of seven or eight men; the other is a boring, sawing, and planing machine. It is used for riveting door frames as well as cutting, and does an immense quantity of work. An instrument by the same makers, and also in this workshop, is used principally for guillotining and sharpening saws. The party also visited Mr. Benson's extensive works at the same place. They comprise a pair of edge stones and 4 ft. 6 in. mill stones. Here, also, are nine lime kilns, likewise the property of Mr. Benson, capable of turning out 150 tons of lime per day; and adjoining is a colliery, belonging to the same proprietor, employing between 50 and 60 men and boys. The coal is found in the limestone measure, and from the circumstances is very inferior to the coal of the district. The quarries of the Little Limestone coal. The quarries of limestone and freestone are situated about half a mile to the north of the railway station. The freestone is the well-known Prudham stone, so largely used for building purposes, and the only stone of the kind to be found in the district. At this place and in the immediate neighbourhood alone is found the stratum of this quality. Large quantities are sent into Lancashire, Westmoreland, and Scotland for the construction of buildings of the better class. Some of the principal buildings in Newcastle—the new Post Office, the Mining Institute, the new club house, and the central station are built of it. The limestone which Mr. Benson is working lies immediately over this, and is the well-known limestone prevailing over a vast area of the western border of the county of England, and which the Victoria Moor and adjacent lead mining territories has been and is still so productive of lead ore. In the district of Newbrough, Fourstones, and Prudham it is denuded, and the lead ore is raised from beds immediately underneath, down to the whin sill, and also upon the whin sill. The limestone quarry gives employment to over 50 men, and the freestone quarry to over 40, and altogether Mr. Benson's works employ from 180 to 200 hands.

THE STONECROFT LEAD MINES.—Another place of interest visited was the Stonecroft Lead Mines, the property of the Greyside Mining Company, which was formed in 1851 by Mr. Benson. The mines are situated about $\frac{2}{3}$ miles to the west of the Four-tones Railway station, and are being actively and successfully worked. Here, and also at Settlingstone Mines, situated in the immediate neighbourhood, guides were in attendance to conduct the visitors over the surface works, and also through the workings of the mine. In the Stonecroft Mines, 120 ft. are underground, and the surface about 70. The visitors were conducted through the mine by Mr. Ware, the courteous and able manager of the mine, and Mr. Wm. Lee, the principal foreman of the underground works. We found the matrix composed of lead ore, carbonate of iron, sulphate of barytes, iron pyrites, blende, carbonate of barytes, and carbonate of lime; and varies in depth from 6 in. up to 15 or 16 ft. There is a main east and west vein, and also a south vein, which have been very productive for the last 23 or 24 years, and are

still extremely productive, the most productive ground being found in the white sill. The ore when brought to the surface is taken direct to a hopper for grating, after which it passes to a Blake's stone breaker, and thence to the crusher; after this it is taken direct to the classifier for jigging, the slimes passing at a lower level. The production of marketable lead ore is about 250 tons per month. At the surface is a pumping engine, 70 in. cylinder, 22 ft. beam, 10 ft. equal stroke; 22 in. plunger; 63 fm. lift. $\frac{3}{4}$ strokes per minute; 559 gallons per minute; 177,441 ft. lbs. of work per minute; 13 in. bucket, 10 fms. lift. The engines are of 56 horse-power and consume 4 to 8 lbs. per horse-power per hour. They are capable of working up to 250 horse-power. The depth of the winding shafts from the surface is 70 fms.; levels are driven off at 15, 30, 40, and 50 fathoms. Most of the ore-dressing machines are driven by steam-power; and water-power is also used. The works above ground were pointed out by Mr. Henry Milburn and Mr. William Nixon, the washing masters.

THE SETTLEINSTONES MINE.—This lead mine is also in the immediate vicinity, and was likewise visited. The party were received and conducted over the mine by Messrs. Alfred and Walter Hall, the lessees of the mine, of which his Grace the Duke of Northumberland is lord of the manor. In this neighbourhood lead ore has been raised for many years. In the works by the side of the burn at Settleinstones the ore is visible, and bears evident traces of having been worked by the Romans. Mr. John Hall, M.D., commenced working the mine in 1790, and continued to do so for some years, after which it was abandoned, but was re-opened in 1833 by the Messrs. A. and W. Hall, who have worked it continuously ever since. The principal pumping engine here is a Cornish 60-in. cylinder, working plungers of 18 in. diameter, and with 9-ft. stroke. There is a 25-horse power condensing-engine. The winding-engine is 16-horse power condensing. One of the shafts is 100, another 75, and another 60 fms. deep. The principal winding shaft is Mr. Winter's, where the pyrites are drawn from the workings of 60, 70, and 80 fms. lift. It is chiefly carbonate of baryta. Between 4000 and 5000 tons are annually produced, and are shipped principally to France and Germany, a little goes to America, and some is used in England for glassmaking and other industrial arts. The chief production of baryta is found in two or three mines in the North of England; and here is one of the principal sources of supply. Almost the entire product of the British Islands is in fact within a few miles of this place. The mine is also worked for lead ore. The run of the known vein through the royalty is about a mile and a quarter. The mine is situated in a very picturesque neighbourhood, close to the Roman Wall, and in the neighbourhood of that portion of the wall where recently was the great discovery of Roman coins in the well consecrated to the goddess Coventina, at the Roman station of Vindolanda, and the estate of Mr. John Clayton. A large party of the members visited this mine, and the wine company (it was a party) in the village of Newbrough, where they had luncheon provided by Mr. Surtees, innkeeper. Mr. Benson occupied the chair, and various toasts having been proposed, the party proceeded to Fourstones Station, from thence a special train brought them back to Newcastle. The weather throughout the day was exceedingly fine, and the excursion was greatly enjoyed.

REPORT FROM THE FOREST OF DEAN.

Oct. 25.—We have had occasion repeatedly when writing our reports for the Journal to direct attention to the unfortunate bungling affecting the construction of the Whimsey and Mitchelldean Railway line, which although less than five miles in length, and has been nearly as many years since it was begun, is still in an unfinished state. The company has been singularly unfortunate, as the first contractor became bankrupt, and left the works, and under the subsequent arrangements two or three stoppages have occurred, and, in fact, hitches of one kind or another have been rather frequent during its whole history. The connection of its late engineer and contractor with the line was considered a great misfortune, as many engineers of fair skill and energy would have constructed the whole length of line easily in less than two years, and it only includes one tunnel of any length (about half a mile more or less), and a small one perhaps a hundred yards long, and the other cuttings only answer to a flea bite in such things, and yet even now the short line is unfinished, and likely to be so for some time to come. The tunnel has some 60 yards or more now to cut through, excepting a mere heading, which has long been driven its whole length. It is only arched in sections, leaving wide gaps without walling, rock sides in some distances, and mere marl or shale in other places, which it is believed no Government Inspector is ever likely to pass as it is. We visited it only a few days ago, and passed along its whole length as far as we could without going upon all fours (hands and feet), i.e., the whole distance, except the bit of heading. To view it some distance in from the front a person of common sense would infer that the managing contractor had taken leave of his senses, as he had the stupidity to arch over without first cutting the proper depth, so that before the permanent rails can be laid from 2 to 3 feet (and even more) will have to be cut out from the floor of the tunnel below the side walling, which may be expected in some places to render the arching very insecure. Thanks be the daudling and muddling contractor is severed from the works, although as an enticement to further connection he stated to the directors, it is said, that he could finish it in about three months for—we were informed, though we cannot vouch for it—3000*l*. We gravely doubt whether it can be done for any such sum, and at the rate of his former progress it would take the said contractor nine months to finish.

Our opinion is that it will take from four to seven months to complete the line, according to the kind of men employed to do the work. The former contractor was very capricious—he would suddenly put on a number of men, and as abruptly discharge them, without any apparent reason—outsiders supposing that one reason in not keeping a full complement was to make a good job last a good while; but the real reasons for his actions, we may conclude, were known to himself. When the directors again set the work in motion we hope some competent person will be employed.

It has been industriously circulated that whenever it is opened it will only be for mineral traffic, though we would charitably hope that the Great Western Company will be wiser than that, notwithstanding that tempting offers have been made to them if they will engage selfishly to exclude passenger traffic. We have it on what seems reliable authority that a rich coal proprietor has offered to find all the necessary money to complete the line on the sole condition of the Great Western Railway Company entering into the selfish and unphilanthropic stipulation to exclude passenger traffic. We understand that the line has already cost some 12,000*l.* more than the original estimate, and is likely to cost several thousands more before it is finished. If the Great Western Company wish to prevent an independent line by others being constructed they had better pay no heed to the selfish offer alluded to. There is a new scheme of railway proposed from Abergavenny to Ross, with a branch junction to Lydbrook to meet the Severn and Wye; but, although desirable, we fear it is in wrong hands to meet with success. But when the plans, &c., are deposited we shall know more about it, and be better able to judge of its prospects.

Some time ago we referred to a dispute respecting the boundary line of a coal gale, affecting the rights of the owner of the Staple and Mid-Church Collieries, the one belonging to Messrs. Gollup and Ridler, or held by them of Mr. Warman, and the other to Mr. Crook and another. We mentioned that the Gaveler had directed a heading to be cut to ascertain the facts of the case. But it is held by Mr. Crook and his partners that the terms of the award exclude the right claimed by Messrs. Ridler, and the points being in dispute are now referred to a local court, to whom it is so assumed that they should stop their work. Attempts have been made to close up the heading by Mr. Crook taking witnesses to Coleford to the Gaveler's office, men who knew the works long ago, and some of whom are said to have been engaged in a former dispute respecting the same piece of coal, but for some reason or other the other side failed to render the necessary presence and attention to decide. It seems that nearly 30 years ago different parties to the present owners occupied the collieries, and that 25 years ago there was an action tried at Gloucester respecting the same piece of coal between Mr. Crook and the Gaveler, the latter being the defendant, the side now represented by Mr. Crook and his partner. We have read the report of trial as published in a Gloucester paper at the time. Some, however, assert that a portion of the coal seams referred to remains unwarded to the present date, but that an application has been entered in the Gale Book by a freeminer for the coal in question, so that it is likely to have a future history as well as a past one. It is desirable to avoid expensive law suits, but when opposite parties are at issue, and the opposing facts that the award is not to be so scarcely possible to prevent the lawyers getting some good pickings out of the litigents. We hear little of the experiment going on at Speculation and Trafalgar Collieries, but that little is of a conflicting character, but in due time we hope that a decision will be arrived at consistent with the real facts of the case, and that the source of inflow of water to Trafalgar Colliery will be clearly ascertained and decided. We understood that Mr. Barrett is engaged repairing boilers, and otherwise putting in order the pumping apparatus at the eastern end of the works of the Prince Arthur Colliery, near Lydbrook, but that instead of working it himself he intends getting up a company to take it in hand; and whenever its pumps are set a going it will play an important part as to the water question. Some fresh operations are reported in West Dean, what is called Teigne's Pit at How Beach being again in force, sending house coal to bank. Whether the death of Mr. G. Russell will affect any of the works with which he has been connected does not as yet appear. He was much regarded as a genial and popular gentleman, and his death is much missed by his friends and acquaintances. The iron mines of Buck Shaft, St. Annols, Westbury Brook, &c., on the eastern side are in operation, notwithstanding that the iron trade is still low. Notices have been given at the forge for termination of present contracts, which is understood to mean further adjudication of wages; on the whole the improvements formerly reported by us as com-

should be quite maintained, although the coal trade is by no means what we should like to see it, nor is there the demand for labour which implies comfort in the earnings of working men; but the labour market is worse on the western side of the Forest than on the eastern side, but nowhere throughout the district is there a good degree of prosperity; still, with the approach of winter cold, we would have some hope for a marked improvement in the demand for household coals, and it is some encouragement to learn that there is improvement in the demand for steam coal. Prices remain in statu quo, but wages in some instances are reported as tending downward.

REPORT FROM MONMOUTHSHIRE AND SOUTH WALES.

Oct. 25.—As time rolls on, and winter approaches, the condition of the Iron Trade by no means improves, nor do the staple trades generally exhibit any sign of returning animation. Rails are being made for India, and this fact has slightly altered things for the better at some of the establishments, but it is feared the winter will be an exceptionally dull time. About the last shipment for the season has been made to the northern ports. Clearances are also being made with regularity to India. As to iron rails, the enquiry continues slack, and prices unremunerative; and, as has been the case of late, the make of bars has been very small. Stocks of pig-iron diminish very slowly. The steel works are employed fairly well. The quarterly meeting of Tin-Plate manufacturers has been held at Swansea. The news to report was not of a very cheering nature, and the attendance was meagre, the members not seeming to take much interest in the Association. The restriction of make will at any rate continue to the end of the year. The news as to the Coal Trade is not at all satisfactory. The foreign demand is not so well kept up, and considering that prices are so low the position of colliery proprietors, and others interested pecuniarily in the trade, must be by no means a pleasant one. The home demand for steam coals is fairly brisk, and the same remark applies to house qualities. From some of the collieries it is reported that full employment is given, but in too many cases the men are only on half-time, taking the average.

Judge Falconer has been speaking at the Merthyr County Court on the last great strike and lock-out. Some defendants pleaded poverty on this account, and his Honour observed that the great works of the country had been then shut up by the talkative delegates who went about. They sent the trade out of the country. If the men got their Union President and strikes again they would only be beating down that which had already been almost destroyed. The colliers at Forchman Colliery, Aberaman, object to working three in a stall, except under certain circumstances, and then to be paid extra. The matter has been considered at a delegate meeting, and adjourned.

A "Mining Engineer" writes to a local paper suggesting that the funds not yet distributed at Porth in connection with the Tynwyld disaster be sent to the widows and orphans of those who have recently lost their lives by the great Scotch calamity. The suggestion is one worthy of consideration.

Sir George Elliot, Bart., M.P., has, it is stated, during the week had an interview with Lord Beaconsfield, mainly on the prevention of accidents in coal mines.

The Noxious Vapours Commission has been sitting at Swansea to receive evidence as to the effects on vegetation and health of copper smoke and other deleterious vapours. Lord Aberdeen presided, and no decision was, of course, arrived at at the meeting.

Cardiff is to have more dock accommodation. The Glamorgan-shire Canal Navigation Company have come to the rescue. They have resolved to carry out the work in connection with their floating dock. A new tidal basin of 2½ acres, and a dock of about 16 acres are projected. The works will be connected with both the Great Western and the Taff Vale Railways. The company intend to shortly ask Parliament for power to raise the necessary capital—some 240,000.

The CWM-AVON IRONWORKS, lately the property of the Governor and Company of Copper Miners in England, were sold it will be remembered a few months ago to Mr. Jas. Shaw and some associates for 55,000. It was well known that these works had cost over a million and a quarter of money, but the shareholders after long consultation discouraged by bad management resolved to quit them at any sacrifice. Since the purchase was made a sale has been effected of a small portion of the property—the tin-plate works, with their stocks, for 51,000, being nearly the whole of the cost price. But besides about 15,000 of copper furnace bottoms have been realised, another 15,000 of pig-iron sold, 12,500 of scrap iron shipped, and private house property to the amount of 10,000, disposed of, these all being included in the purchase. The blast-furnace property is about to be sold for 25,000, and the remaining house property brings in an annual income of 5500. The extensive collieries, wharf property, foundries, engineering and fitting shops, brickworks, and chemical and acid works remain untouched. The actual working stock included in the sale was the astounding item of 62,000. It is seldom that such a bargain is made even by the most disheartened shareholders.

REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

Oct. 25.—With a goodly number of lead mines open the production of ore is particularly small, and some of those that but a few years since were turning out large quantities are now doing little or nothing. The mill dam at Great Hucklow, belonging to the Mill Dam Mining and Smelting Company, was the best last year, Wakebridge and Eyam being the next, but the produce of the three was not equal to what was only a few years since raised at one mine. Even the mines belonging to the Wass family, that formerly did so remarkably well, have been particularly quiet for a considerable time past. In ironstone there does not appear to be so much raised at several places as there was formerly, so that a large percentage of what is consumed is brought from Northamptonshire. Pig-iron has not in any way fallen off in production, but the demand is still rather moderate, yet a good deal is consumed at the works where it is made. Manufactured iron is in rather moderate request, but the foundries continue to be tolerably well off. House coal has rather improved in demand of late, more especially for the London market, so that Clay Cross and several other collieries are now sending a larger tonnage there than they have done for some time past. But this has caused very little alteration in the prices, although some of the London merchants have been charging their customers a great deal more than is warranted by what they have to pay at the pits, so that their colliery owners give these gentlemen the opportunity of making so much money as they do, seeing how easy it would be for many of them to sell direct to the consumer, and to the advantage of both. The laying of the foundation stone of the Stephenson Memorial Hall by the Marquis of Hartington at Chesterfield on the 17th inst. was a marked success in every way. It is expected that the erection of the building will be proceeded with energetically, so that the Mining and Mechanical Engineers' Association of Derbyshire will be installed in their new home with as little delay as possible.

Complaints are still rife in Sheffield as to the marked quietness which pervades several of the leading branches of trade, and the slight prospect there is of any improvement taking place in them. The Bessemer railway mills continue their onward course, and what with the Indian and other orders they will be kept going for some months to come at the same rate. Tyres and axles are also in fair request, but there does not appear to be so much doing in ordinary iron rails and railway material. Crucible steel is still quiet, the demand for cutlery and other purposes being still but moderate. Notwithstanding the war very little is being done in rifle barrels, heavy ordnance, or general war material. The armour-plate mills, however, have been doing rather better for our own and, we believe, the Austrian Government, but even in this branch there is room for improvement. Business with the United States is looking better, more particularly with respect to cutlery, whilst some orders are also being placed on Australian account. Ship-plates are rather quieter, whilst a very moderate business is being done in files, saws, and similar goods.

Between Sheffield and Rotherham some of the works have been doing very well; this is more especially the case at Messrs. Steele, Tozer, and Hampton's, who are very busy on the Government order for Bessemer rails for India, and have recently increased their pro-

ductive power, so as to be better able to meet the demand made upon their resources. Engineers are kept moderately well going, and so are makers of railway mineral wagons. In South Yorkshire the house coal trade has kept up very well, and a full average tonnage has been passing over the Great Northern to the metropolis, but more could be sent were it required. The active season for the shipment of steam coal may now be said to have closed, after a very fair time, so far as the tonnage exported to the North of Europe is concerned. Our colliery owners have been able to hold their own in the North Sea against the efforts of their German competitors, who have been pushing their coal in several directions. Steam coal is not in such demand as it has been, but a fair tonnage of gas nuts is being sent away. The proposal of the Midland and Great Western Railway Companies to purchase or lease the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire was rather a surprise, but it has evidently been brought about by the notice given by the Great Eastern for a line to join their main system to the Lancashire and Yorkshire at Askerne, and the Manchester and Sheffield at Lincoln. This would give the Great Eastern access to the West Riding coal field, and the colliery owners another route to the Metropolis, which they have been long looking forward to. What the result will be it is not easy to tell just now, but it is to be feared that the Midland and Great Northern acting together will be too much for the Great Eastern.

REPORT FROM THE NORTH OF ENGLAND.

Oct. 25.—There has again been a week of comparative inaction in all matters affecting the position and prospects of the Iron Trade. The current of business on Tuesday at the Mid-ill-shorrough iron market was the reverse of satisfactory. Prices, indeed, were lower than they have been for many weeks, perhaps for years, seeing that No. 3 touched 40s., less 1 percent., and transactions reported at 36s. 6d., cash on delivery. I did not hear of any contracts made at lower rates, but I am satisfied from conversations with both buyers and sellers that it is quite easy to place orders at lower rates, some makers finding an increasing difficulty in getting a market for their stuff. There is now about 105 furnaces in blast out of 160 built, and this proportion is making at the rate of fully 5000 tons per week more than a legitimate market can be found for. On the whole, it must be admitted that the outlook is even less satisfactory than it was. There is a constant liability on the part of merchants to "bear" the market, and the attitude of sellers is such that they cannot resist these movements by any successful counteraction. There is now a good deal of iron being shipped to Scotland, and the various countries in the North of Europe are also taking comparatively large quantities, but for local consumption the demand is of the most meagre description.

The finished Iron Trade scarcely calls for any remark. Rail makers are doing literally nothing, except Hopkins, Gilkes, and Company, and the Darlington Iron Company, and the disrepute into which this class of property has fallen is indicated by the fact that Mr. Willman, who offered the North Yorkshire ironworks for sale on Tuesday, failed to elicit a single bid, although this is entirely an iron-making concern. The probability is that the works to be offered for sale next week will share the same fate, the investing public having in the meantime a whole-some dread of this kind of property. Plates are in pretty steady demand, but prices are without change.

The coal and ironstone mining trades are slacker. In the Cleveland district proper some half-a-dozen of the principal mines continue to be unproductive. Walker's drilling machine is now being tested by B-H Brothers (Limited) at another of their mines. The coke trade is fairly busy, but not so much so as it was a few weeks ago. More ovens have been put out within the past few days. There are not now more than 4000 ovens in use out of 17,500 in the county. The price of coke is decidedly weaker, best sorts being only quoted at about 11s. 6d. at the ovens, while inferior kinds may be bought as low as 9s. 6d.

FURNACES WITH UNDERGROUND SHAFTS.

With a view to construct furnaces with a chamber or chambers formed below the fire-grate to a depth of 30 ft. more or less, below the level of the ground to serve as an air shaft by which the fire is fed with air and the supply of air and the heat regulated and maintained especially with furnaces employed for treating metals and other minerals, also for annealing purposes, and for burning, heating, and drying plastic bodies, and for operating upon materials generally by heat, Mr. J. TOUSSAINT, of Birmingham, has patented an invention by which the fire and heat may be caused to act direct upon or against crucibles and other containers arranged above, or in flues or passages leading to the outlet, as desired, but it is particularly applicable when crucibles are employed suspended or supported by oblique or angled projections below and at the side, or by a foot at the bottom, said crucible being formed with a rounded bottom, and with a spout or nozzle from its lower part to the outside of the brickwork or structure to facilitate the molten metal being drawn off.

One method of forming the upper part of the furnace structure above the fire-grate (and which is important as part of his invention), the part below the grate being in all cases by his invention of great depth, whether the structure be vertical or oblique, is this:—The furnace may be square, round, or of six or eight sides, or oval; under the fire-grate bars it is in the form of a chimney of a depth from 3 ft. to 30 ft. or more. It may have parallel sides from the bottom to the grate bars, or it may be tapered with its smaller diameter at the upper part, the air-door on opening being somewhat larger than the grate bar part to furnish a full supply of air. At the bottom of this construction there is a door of about the same diameter or rather more than the top of the chimney directly below the fire-grate. This door is double, so as to introduce between the two sand or dust, in order to interrupt the current of air to keep the fire alight night and day. This construction is made so as to give a current of air very rapid and very strong, according to its depth beneath the fire-grate; the greater the depth the stronger and more rapid will be the column of air. At the level of the grate, which is about level with the ground, there is a door which serves to clean the furnace grate, and about 2 ft. above this door there is another door which serves to make the fire from which the heat is derived.

The top of the furnace brickwork is provided with a cap to compel the escaping gases from the cover to pass through an opening in the side wall leading to the chimney. This chimney is placed above the furnace and is available, if desired, to direct the smoke and gas from the foundry. The outlet from the furnace may be directed by a flue or flues in a downward direction to about 3 ft. above the air supply door, to check the outflow of the escaping gases. By this means the gases, which become developed at the top of the furnace, may be utilised by their expansion and consequent pressure on the top of the metals under operation, or upon other bodies which may be in the furnace (say) for bricks, which have to be dried or burnt.

The furnace constructed as described is available for ordinary crucibles, and four or six of such crucibles may be placed in, as found convenient, in order to economise fuel. The heat in this furnace is strongly induced through the length or height of the furnace structure below the fire-grate, and without having recourse to a steam-engine by the great force of the column of air which comes from the bottom of the furnace, which is, as before stated, very deep in the form of a chimney, the fire thereby drawing in the air with avidity. The gases from the fuel in this furnace are very much lighter than the outer air, and exert great heating power around and against the crucible or material under operation.

By this invention the heat from the fire when cone-shaped crucibles are used always finds itself contracted against the sides when ascending to the top of the crucible, and gives to it greater heat. The space above the top of the crucible enables the heat to be kept on top as well as all around. The heat at the top of the crucible is, however, slightly greater than that of the sides, because it is lighter, and concentrated by the opposition of the narrow passage in the cover. By this invention the usual outside high stack or chimney is dispensed

with, and also the steam-engine and the blowing and suction apparatus which now induces draught, and regulates heat in such furnaces.

COMBINED STEAM-ENGINES AND PUMPS.

The nature and novelty of the invention of Mr. W. HAMILTON, Glasgow, will be best understood from the statement that the steam cylinder is placed in the same axial line as the pump, which is the ordinary plunger class with the stuffing box of its barrel chamber facing that of the close end of the steam cylinder, having sufficient room between them for packing and screwing them, and when the pump plunger is the same size or smaller than the piston-rod they may be cast in one piece, preferably also (for small sizes of engines) in one with the steam piston, which would then be inserted into the steam cylinder at the upper or outer end closed by an ordinary flanged cover and screw bolts; and for small engines the steam cylinder and pump barrel may be cast in one to a flange bracket or sole plate for bolting it to a wall vertically or other suitable foundation horizontally. The steam cylinder and piston centre of the cylinder so as to admit the steam direct to the chamber formed in the middle of the piston as a transverse or longitudinal steam chamber having its ends facing each other and planed or slotted right across the two adjacent cylindrical ends of the piston for the slide valve to work or reciprocate across.

Packing rings are fitted in each end of the piston, and space is between them and the inner ends of the cylinder equal to the size of the crank piston and clearance desired for the steam to act on the steam and exhaust ports are formed in the end of the piston next the piston-rod and pump plunger, which are both hollow in a line with the exhaust port formed in the centre opposite or rushes direct into the hollow plunger of the pump, which by the improvements is made to form the condenser to the engine, and the pump to act as an air pump to it, as will hereinafter be more fully described, the steam ports being formed on either side of the chamber port, the one leading direct into the front end of the cylinder and the other to the back end of the piston and cylinder through one of the segments joining the two ends of this duplex piston, each side of the steam chamber of the slide valve (working in a pre-ferably formed in two parts, the one as an ordinary short slide valve with end faces over the steam ports, and the close D chamber between them through which the steam exhausts from either end of the cylinder into the hollow piston rod and pump plunger, as stated while the other part of the valve fits into a close turned chamber against the planed back face of the valve chamber, thus keeping the face of the valve up against the opposite or front face with the piston in it and otherwise acting as a guiding and moving block to the valve port by a lateral hole in it into which the crank pin works, the crank end of a shaft passed through an elliptical hole in the centre of the cylinder, and revolves in the port space of the piston cut away to form the steam valve chamber, the spindle outer part of the crank shaft working out through a bush bearing block secured to a steam-tight flange or otherwise over the hole of the cylinder through which the crank is inserted, and having a tight stuffing-box outside the bearing, and a fly-wheel on the other hanging end when a single cylinder engine is used; but two or direct acting steam pumps might be fitted to work together as double cylinder engine on the same framing, with a couple of crank shafts with the cranks at right angles to each other, which arrangement would be most suitable for motive-power engines, as for marine engines, or engines for the propulsion of tramway cars, or for other purposes. The hollow plunger of the pump is fitted with a number of surface condensing cross tubes as close as convenient throughout its whole surface length at various radial angles opening their outer ends beyond the stuffing-box, where it works freely in barrel or chamber with a space all round sufficient to allow the water to pass the plunger and circulate through the cross tubes passing from the inlet water valve chamber and branch at one end of the end of the barrel to the outlet branch and valve chest at the upper or inner end of the barrel near the stuffing-box, where an annular chamber is formed all round to lead the water freely from the tubes to the outlet branch. The exhaust steam in passing through the inside of the plunger as a surface condenser gets condensed on its surface, and that of the tubes, on which it impinges, these are always kept cold by the water circulating through them and the space between the barrel and the plunger. The condensed steam as water and any vapour or air not condensed passes off by a tube at the extreme end of the plunger, working through a stuffing box in the end of the pump barrel into a close discharge chamber fitted with a blow-off cock on it for letting the exhaust steam escape at starting, and also with an outlet branch and valve leading to the inlet cold or supply water valve chamber of the pump.

When the pump is properly at work, and the water circulating through it and the cross tubes, the blow-off cock is shut, and the hot condensed water and air or vapour drawn through the pipe valve controlled by a regulating screw into the suction valve chamber, and forced through the pump with the inlet water, and as desired, a self-acting check valve opening outwards may be fitted at the extreme end of the hot water discharge pipe of the plunger, which would allow a free escape of the exhaust steam and condensed water, but prevent their flowing back, and even force the hot water into the inlet valve chamber of the pump on the inward stroke of the plunger, thus enabling the pump to use all the waste hot water of the condensed steam, and feed it into the boiler at as high a temperature as was found possible to condense the steam, shutting down the inlet lift of the water valve as found desirable to suit the working condition of the pump. When this construction of engine is used for motive power driving purposes the power might be transmitted by a wheel or pinion keyed on the duplex crank shaft coupled between the engines to drive the other shafts and gears when both gearing is to be employed; but when bands or belts to be used a grooved or flat pulley or drum might be keyed on the middle of the said crank shaft, and it might be made to act as a wheel also when desired. In some cases the hollow pump plunger may be used in whole or in part as a jet condenser by perforating with small holes, or by inserting a perforated rose pipe through the sides near the stuffing-box when at the outer part of its stroke, that a portion of cold water might enter in jets near where the steam enters, and have all the benefit of the cold surface condensation of the plunger or tubes beyond; and the small tube with valve beyond might in that case be made to force the hot condensed water direct into the boiler by shutting the connection between the chamber and that of the pump supply valve chest, and this may be done also for surface condensation (without rose jets) where the water passed through the pump is saline or bad for being put into the boiler by the force pump, and for marine engines where the water would be circulated through the pump.

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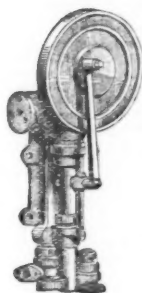
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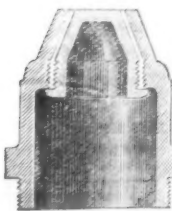
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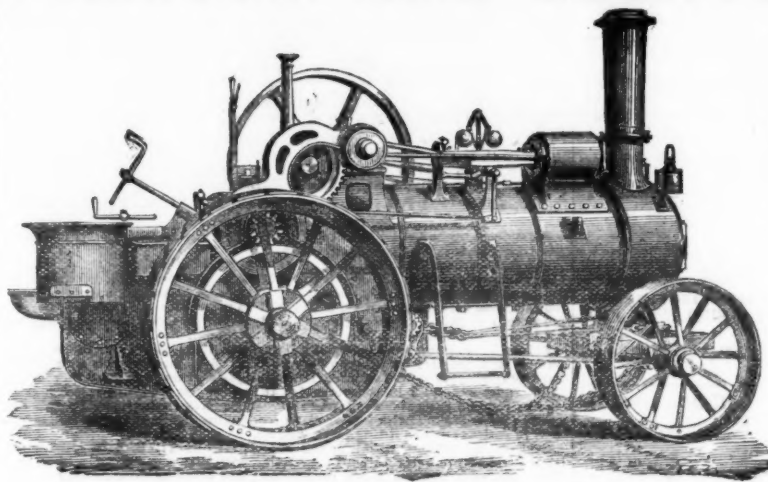
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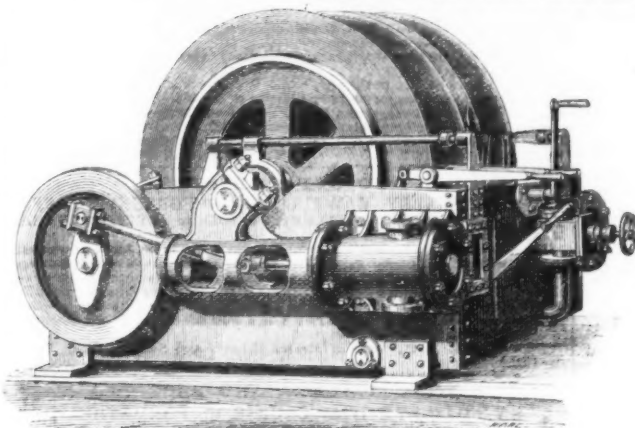
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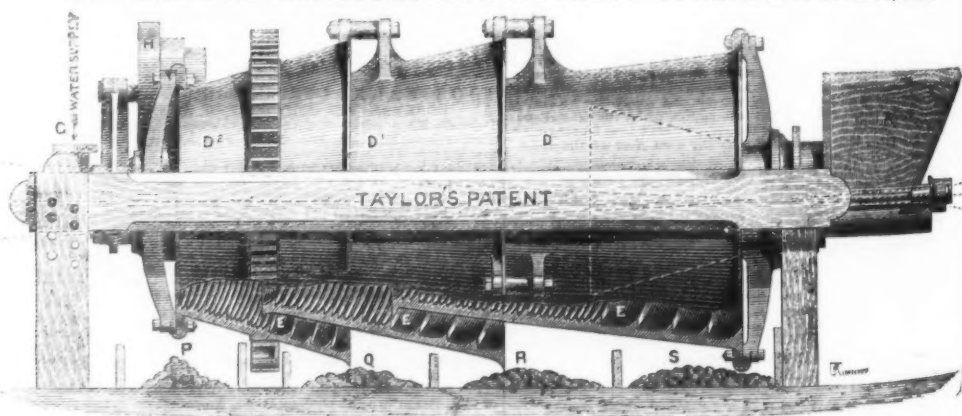
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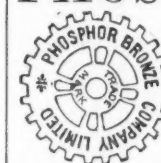
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12000	Glan Clwyd, <i>s</i> , <i>l</i> , Gwyddelwern	1 0 0..	—	—
4000	Glenroy, <i>s</i> , <i>l</i> , <i>l</i> , Isle of Man	4 0 0..	1	¾ 1
1000	Glyn, <i>s</i> , <i>l</i> , Llanidloes	2 0 0..	¾..	¾ ¾
12000	Goginan, & Llew Newydd, Card., <i>l</i>	2 10 0..	—	—
10000	Gold, <i>c</i> , Merionethshire	1 0 0..	—	—
0000	Goren, <i>s</i> , <i>l</i> , Carmarthen	1 0 0..	1½..	1½ 1½
000	Gt. E. Wood Dale, <i>l</i> , <i>l</i> of Man (1 <i>l</i> . <i>sh</i>)	0 18 0..	—	—
12000	Great Holway, <i>l</i> , <i>l</i> , Fintona	5 0 0..	6	5 5½
5000	Great Pant, <i>l</i> , Pydew, <i>l</i> , Holywell	5 0 0..	—	—
6000	Gt. Wheal Eleanor, <i>t</i> , North Bovey	1 0 0..	3	2 3
0000	Grosvenor, <i>l</i> , Holywell (£1 <i>sh</i> .)	0 15 0..	—	—
00000	Harehope Gill, <i>s</i> , <i>l</i> , Durham (£1 <i>sh</i> .)	0 5 0..	—	—
64 10	Harwood, <i>s</i> , <i>l</i> , Durham	0 15 0..	1	1
5 00	Hush Elsteddofd Mynydd, <i>s</i> , <i>l</i>	2 0 0..	—	—
200	Islay, <i>s</i> , <i>l</i> , Scotland	28 0 0..	—	—
2500	Killalee, <i>st</i> , Tipperary†	1 0 0..	—	—
4000	Killifreth, <i>t</i> , Chacewater	2 1 0..	¾..	¾ ¾
15000	Kington p.n., <i>st</i> , Stoke Climsland.	1 0 0..	—	—
	Ditto, preference	1 0 0..	¾..	¾ ¾
2000	Ladywell, <i>s</i> , <i>l</i> , Salop	2 10 0..	1½..	1½ 1½
200	Ditto, 10 per cent. pref. <i>l</i> , each.	0 10 0..	¾..	¾ ¾
2500	Leant, <i>c</i> , <i>l</i> , St. Just	9 18 6..	—	—

4000	Liwyn Telfy, <i>s-l</i> , Cardigan	1 0 0	—	—	—
4000	Medlyn Moor, <i>t</i> , Wendron	1 17 4	3	—	3
3530	Mellaneer Copper, Hayle*	2 0 0	2½	2½	2½
4000	Ditto	1 15 0	—	1½	2
1090	Melyntw, <i>l</i> , Cardigan*	3 0 0	—	¾	¾
1000	Monydd Gordin, <i>l</i> , Cardigan (Red.)	5 0 0	4	—	1½ 2½
5000	Nant-y-Ronen, <i>s-l</i> , Cardigan*	1 0 0	—	—	—
5000	Nascent Copper*	1 0 0	—	—	—
4525	New Bronfloy*, <i>l</i> , Cardigan (<i>Sl. sh.</i>)	3 10 0	—	—	—
5000	New Consols, <i>s-c</i> (In liquidation)	0 — —	—	—	—
8000	New Dolcoath, <i>t</i> , <i>c</i> , Camborne*	3 0 0	1½	1½	1½
5000	New East Foxdale, <i>s-l</i> , Isle of Man.	6 15 0	—	—	—
5000	New Fowey Consols, <i>t</i> , St. Blaize*	3 0 0	2	—	1½ 2
5000	New Hendra, <i>t</i> , Breage	3 9 0	—	—	—
1400	New South Molyn, <i>l</i> , St. Just	2 10 0	—	—	—
3300	New Wheal Emma, <i>c</i> , Buckfastleigh	5 0 0	—	—	¾ 1
4000	North Cornwall, <i>l</i> , Cornwall	5 0 0	5½	—	5½ 1
7000	North Laxey*, Isle of Man	2 0 0	¾	¾	¾
2000	North Levant, <i>r</i> , <i>c</i> , St. Just†	12 20 —	—	—	—
5000	North Prince Patrick*, <i>l</i> , Holywell.	1 0 0	—	—	—
5956	North Treaskerby, <i>c</i> , St. Agnes	4 7 10	—	—	—
8000	North Wheel Towan, <i>t</i> , <i>c</i> , Illogan	1 19 6	—	—	—
2500	Old Tincofort, <i>c</i> , <i>t</i> , Lelant*	4 0 0	4	—	3 4
3400	Osca Hills*, <i>l</i> , Limerick	5 0 0	—	—	—
2000	Pandora*, <i>l</i> , Carnarvon	2 0 0	1½	—	1½
5000	Panty Mwyn*, <i>l</i> , Mold (8794 ins.)	2 0 0	2	—	2 2
5923	Parys Mountain*, <i>c</i> , Angieses	3 0 0	¾	¾	¾
4000	Pateley Bridge, <i>l</i> , Yorkshire	5 0 0	2½	—	2½
5000	Perkins Beach, <i>l</i> , Shropshire	1 0 0	1½	—	1½
5000	Phylimmont, <i>l</i> , Llandides*	2 0 0	—	¾	¾
5000	Pirose, <i>t</i> , Breage	21 0 0	—	—	—
5000	Prye Nigel*, <i>l</i> , Carnarvonshire	2 0 0	—	¾	¾ ¾
5000	Prideaux Wood*, <i>l</i> , Llanvory	2 0 0	—	—	—
5182	Prince of Wales, <i>c</i> , Calstock†	2 4 0	¾	¾	¾ ¾
5000	Red Rock*, <i>l</i> , Cardigan	2 0 0	2½	—	2½
5000	Reliant Consols, <i>c</i> , Gwinear	0 10 0	¾	—	¾ ¾
5000	Rookhope, <i>l</i> , Durham	1 10 0	1½	—	1½
5000	Silvercross*, <i>c</i> , <i>t</i> , Marazion	1 0 0	—	¾	¾
4200	Snobrook, <i>c</i> , <i>l</i> , Montgomery	5 0 0	5½	—	5½

IRON AND

IRON AND COAL COMPANIES		
Shares.	Company.	Paid.
#100	Abbot, John, and Co. [L.]	75 0 0
15	Albion Steel and Wire Co. [L.]	14 0 0
100	Asahi Colliery Co. [L.]	14 0 0
10	Bagnall Jno. [L.]	80 0 0
10	Benhar Coal Iron, and Sons [L.]	10 0 0
60	Bilbao Iron Ore [L.]	10 0 0
10	Bilbon & Crump Messrs. Coll. Co. [L.]	10 0 0
60	Blaen Cwmabach Coal Co. [L.]	10 0 0
100	Blaenowen Iron and Steel [L.]	4 0 0
100	Bolckow, Vaughan, and Co. [L.]	4 0 0
60	Bwlling Iron Co. [L.]	4 0 0
60	Brown, Ironworks [L.]	4 0 0
60	Brown, Bailey, and, Dixon [L.]	4 0 0
60	Brown, John, and Co. [L.]	4 0 0
100	Cakemore Colliery Co. [L.]	4 0 0
100	Cammell and Co. [L.]	4 0 0
100	Cannock and Huntington [L.]	4 0 0
100	Cardiff & Swansea St. Coal Co. [L.]	4 0 0
100	Cardigan Steel and Wire Co. [L.]	4 0 0
100	Central Swedish Iron and Steel [L.]	4 0 0
60	Chapel House Colliery	10 0 0
60	Charlton Iron Co. [L.]	10 0 0
60	Chatterley Iron Co. [L.]	10 0 0
100	Chillington Iron Co. [L.]	45 0 0
1	Clee Hill Colliery Co. [L.]	10 0 0
1	Consett Iron Co. [L.]	1 0 0
1	Consett Spanish Ore [L.]	7 10 0
1	Coote, William, and Co. [L.]	1 0 0
21	Darlington Iron Co. [L.]	42 10 0
21	Dart Brothers [L.]	12 10 0
60	Diamond Fuel Co. [L.]	20 0 0
32	Ebbw Vale Co. [L.]	20 0 0
100	Fox, Samuel, and Co. [L.]	80 0 0
100	General Mining Ass. [L.] (discontinued)	80 0 0
60	Great Western Coal Co. [L.]	17 0 0
10	Gwynswillim Colliery Co. [L.]	3 0 0
10	Hopkins, Glikes, and Co. [L.]	3 0 0
10	Knowles, Andrew, and Sons [L.]	11 0 0
10	Knives, Iron, and, Firebrick [L.]	10 0 0
10	Littleside Works, Ltd. Co. [L.]	10 0 0
10	Llyrri, Ogmore, and Tondra Co. [L.]	80 0 0
10	Lydney and Widdell Iron Ore [L.]	10 0 0
10	Marbella Iron Ore Co. [L.]	10 0 0
60	Mersey Steel and Iron Co. [L.]	4 0 0
100	Midland Iron Co. [L.]	4 0 0
100	Mild Argued Colliery Co. [L.]	4 0 0
100	Monsford Iron and Coal Co. [L.]	4 0 0
100	Morland Iron Ore [L.]	3 10 0
100	Nant-y-gwlad Iron and Coal (8 p.c. pref.)	100 0 0
20	Nerbudda Coal Co. [L. & Ref.]	2 0 0
20	New Sharncliffe Colliery Co. [L.]	2 0 0
100	Newport Abercorn Coal Co. [L.]	10 0 0
100	Northampton, Coal, Iron & Wagon [L.]	4 0 0
100	Northfield Iron Co. [L.]	4 0 0
1	Norton Green Coal Co. [L.]	1 0 0
100	Palmer's Shipbuilding and Iron [L.]	20 0 0
100	Parkgate Iron Co. [L.]	60 0 0
100	Parkgate and Bolt Co. [L.]	14 0 0
100	Patent Shaft and Girders [L.]	10 0 0
100	Pellissal Coal Co. [L.]	10 0 0
100	Phoenix Bessemer Co. [L.]	40 0 0
100	Rhymney Iron Co. [L.]	40 0 0
100	Richards and Co. [L.]	10 0 0
100	Sandwell Park Colliery Co. [L.]	100 0 0
50	Ditto New	100 0 0
50	Shotts Iron Co. [L.]	50 0 0
100	Sheffield Iron and Coal [L.]	50 0 0
50	Silkestone & Dodworth Cl. & Iron [L.]	27 0 0
50	Skerne Ironworks [L.]	50 0 0
50	Somersetshire Iron Co. [L.]	50 0 0
25	South Wales Coal Co. [L.]	21 0 0
100	Staveley Iron and Coal Co. [L.]	60 0 0
100	Ditto ditto	60 0 0
100	Swansea Valley Steam Coll. Co. [L.]	10 0 0
100	Thames Iron Company	100 0 0
100	Tredegar Iron and Coal Co. [L.]	20 0 0
25	Ditto B. shares	25 0 0
100	Tydvoller Mining Co. [L.]	12 0 0
100	Unconquer Coal [L.]	100 0 0
100	Vickers, Sons, & Co. [L.]	100 0 0
50	Welsh Ironworks Co. [L.]	50 0 0
25	W. Cumberland L. & Steel [L.]	30 0 0
10	West Midland Coal Co. [L.] (12 p.c. pref.)	10 0 0
5	West Swansea Coal Co. [L.]	10 0 0
100	Whitehaven Iron Co. [L.]	10 0 0
100	Whitton and Whiston Coal Co. [L.]	10 0 0
100	Wigan Coal and Iron Co. [L.]	10 0 0

WAGON COMPANIES

10	Birmingham Wagon Co. [L.]	10 0 0
10	Ditto, 2nd issue	4 0 0
10	Ditto, 3rd issue	10 0 0
10	Ditto, 4th issue	10 0 0
10	Ditto, 5th issue	10 0 0
10	Ditto, 6th issue	10

FOREIGN AND MISCELLANEOUS STOCKS, BONDS, LOANS, AND TRUSTS.

812	South Darren, Cardigan	1	10 0
813	South Dolcoath, c, t, Redruth	12	8 0	..	1 1/4	1 1/4
800	So. Molton Cons., s-t, No. Devon	0	2 0	..	1	3/4
8000	South Roman Gravel, t	1	10 0	..	3	3/4
8000	South Rokear, t, c, Camborne	6	10 0	..	3	4 1/2
8000	South Tolcarne, c, c, Camborne	1	14 0	..	3	3/4
937	South Wheel Croft, c, Illogan	33	17 10	..	8	8 1/2
8500	South Wh. Francis, c, Illogan	7	12 6	..	2 1/2	2 1/2
8000	St. Lawrence, Amal, t, Flintshire*	1	0 0	..	1	3/4
8000	St. Patrick, t, Halkin, Holywell*	1	0 0	..	1	3/4
8000	Success, &c., t, Derb. (12,000), called	1	0 0	..	1	3/4
8000	Sunnyside, t, Durham	3	0 0	..	2 1/2	2 1/2
8000	Talybot, s-t, Cardiganshire	1	0 0	..	1 1/4	1 1/4
400	Teesdaie, t, Durham	1	0 0	..	3	3/4
8000	Teesdale Valley, t, bar, Bridford	1	0 0	..	3	3/4
8000	Temple, t, Cardigan*	1	0 0	..	2 1/2	2 1/2
8000	Tolgus Consols, c, Redruth	8	0 0	..	8 1/2	8 1/2
8000	Treleigh Consols, s-t, St. Ives	0	9 0	..	3 1/2	3 1/2
8000	Treleigh Wood, t, Redruth	8	1 0	..	3	3/4
847	Trelyon Consols	16	0 0	..	3 1/2	3 1/2
8000	Trehellan, s-t, Crantock*	2	0 0	..	3	3/4
840	Truro, t, Nermels, Flintshire	10	0 0	..	1 1/4	1 1/4
8000	Tyn-y-Fron, s-t, Cardigan	1	0 0	..	1 1/4	1 1/4
8000	Van Consols, t, Llanidloes	2	10 0	..	3 1/2	3 1/2
8000	Vaughan, s-t, Cardiganshire	10	0 0	..	3 1/2	3 1/2
900	West Asheton, t, Carnarvon	1	0 0	..	1	3/4
900	West Bassett, c, Illogan†	8	0 0	..	2	1 1/4
900	West Combmarin, c, t, North Devon	1	0 0	..	3	3/4
900	Ditto	2	6 0	..	11	10 11
900	W Craven Moor, t, Pateley Edge*	0	2 0	..	3 1/2	3 1/2
900	West Godolphin, t, c, Breage	2	0 0	..	2 1/2	2 1/2
900	West Gwynn, s-t, Cardiganshire	2	0 0	..	3	3/4
900	West Llangynog, s-t, Montgomery	2	0 0	..	1	3/4
900	West Mary Ann, t, Menheniot	0	3 6	..	1	3/4
900	West Milver, s-t, Flint	1	0 0	..	2	3/4
900	West of England Granite Company	2	0 0	..	2	3/4
900	West Pateley Bridge, t, Yorkshire	1	0 0	..	2 1/2	1 1/2
900	West Rokear, s-t, s-t, c, Camborne	3	0 0	..	15	10 15
900	West Tankers Hill, t, Salop	3	0 0	..	1	3/4
900	Ditto, 15 per cent pref.	3	0 0	..	3	3/4
900	West Trenewan, s-t, c, t, Gwent	3	0 0	..	1 1/4	1 1/4
900	West Wheel Pevor, t, Redruth	0	10 0	..	1 1/4	1 1/4
900	West Wheel Seton, c, Camborne†	47	0 0	..	22	20 22
900	Wheel Azar, c, Illogan	12	0 0	..	4 1/2	3 1/2
112	Wheel Bassett, c, Illogan†	22	2 6	..	13	10 12
900	Wheel Coates, t, St. Agnes	2	0 0	..	2	1 1/2
335	Wheel Comfort, c, Gwennap	4	10 0	..	8	4 1/2
900	Wheel Crestor, c, Tavistock	4	1 0	..	3	1 1/2
900	Wheel Grenville, c, Camborne	3	18 6	..	3 1/2	3 3/4
900	Wh. Mary Hutchinson, t, t, Fylmpton†	1	18 6	..	6	4 1/2
900	Wheel Pevor, t, Redruth	6	7 6	..	3	3 1/2
900	Wheel Russell, c, Tavistock	2	18 6	..	3 1/2	3 1/2
900	Wheel Uny, t, s-t, Redruth	13	11 6	..	1	3/4
800	White Cliff, t, Llanrwst	4	0 0

blende; cl, coal; c, copper; g, gold; l, lead; s, silver; sl, slate; s-t, silver lead; t, tin; z, zinc.

Limited Liability Companies; † quoted on the Stock Exchange;

TELEGRAPH COMPANIES.	
100 "St." Anglo-American	100 0 0. 44
10 Brazilian Submarine	10 0 0. 44
20 Direct United States Cable	20 0 0. 124
10 Eastern	10 0 0. 13
10 East. Eastern, Australia and China	10 0 0. 176
10 Great Northern	10 0 0. 176
25 Indo-European Extension	25 0 0. 13
10 Mediterranean	10 0 0. 13
8 Reuters	8 0 0. 17
8k. Submarine	100 0 0. 20
10 West India and Panama	10 0 0. 17
20 Western and Brazilian	20 0 0. 17
1000 Western Union, 7 per cent. Mort. Bonds \$1000. ill	1000 0 0. 11
MISCELLANEOUS.	
100 Ang. Virginian Freehold Land Bonds	100 0 0. 0.
8k. Atlantic and Great Western Leased Lines, Rock	100 0 0. 21
25 Australian Agricultural	21 10 0. 21
25 Austral. Mort. Land and Finance [L.]	0 0. 45
10 Avonside Engine [L.]	7 0 0. 4
8k. Baltimore and Ohio, 6 per cent.	100 0 0. 107
10 Brighton Aquarium [L.]	10 0 0. 194
8k. Cent. of New Jersey Con. Mort.	100 0 0. 07
8k. Cent. Pacific of Calif., 1st Mort. 6 p.e.	100 0 0. 108
25 City of London Real Property [L.]	0 0 0. 0.
25 Copper Mines of Eng. (7 p.e. p.e.d.)	4 10 0. 21
8 Diamond Rock Boring	8 0 0. 0.
15 English and Foreign	14 0 0. 11
15 Fore Street Warehouse	10 10 0. 14
15 Foster, Porter, and Co. [L.]	8 0 0. 0.
8 Gen. Phos. & Chem. Works Co. [L.]	1 0 0. 1
5 Kit Hill Tunnel [L.]	17 10 0. 14
17 Hudson's Bay Company	0 0 0. 45
10 Huntington Copper and Sul. Co.	100 0 0. 77
8k. Illinois Central, \$100 shares	100 0 0. 53
8k. Illinois & St. Louis Bridge, 1st Mort.	100 0 0. 53
8k. Ditto, 2nd Mort., 7 per cent.	100 0 0. 53
8k. Illinois Cent. Sinking Fund, 5 p. mort.	100 0 0. 108
75 Imperial 6 per cent.	1 10 0. 7
75 Imperial Credits [L.]	1 10 0. 7
8k. Ditto, Surplus Certificate	100 0 0. 79
8k. Lehigh Val. Con. Mort., A, 6 p. cent.	10 0 0. 19
10 Miller's Safe [L.]	10 0 0. 19
25 National Discount [L.]	10 0 0. 44
8k. N. Cent. Rail. Con. Mort., 6 per cent.	6 0 0. 51
10 Pawson and Co. [L.]	80 0 0. 80
80 Peninsular and Oriental Steam	100 0 0. 104
8k. Pennsly. Gen. Sink. Mort. 6 p. cent., 1910.	100 0 0. 104
8k. Ditto, Con. Sink. Mort., 6 p. cent., 1908	100 0 0. 104
8k. Bechtel, Aust. Investment Company	100 0 0. 104
8k. Ditto, 6 per cent. Preference	100 0 0. 104
10 Silber Light (ord. sh.)	10 0 0. 1
20 Suz Canal shares	10 0 0. 51
12 Telegraph Construe. & Maints. [L.]	10 0 0. 51
8 Ditto, Second Bonus Three per Cents	10 0 0. 51
10 Tharvis Sulphur and Copper Co.	100 0 0. 104
8k. Union Pacific Land Grant, 1st Mort.	100 0 0. 104
8k. Union Pacific Railway, 1st Mort.	100 0 0. 104

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